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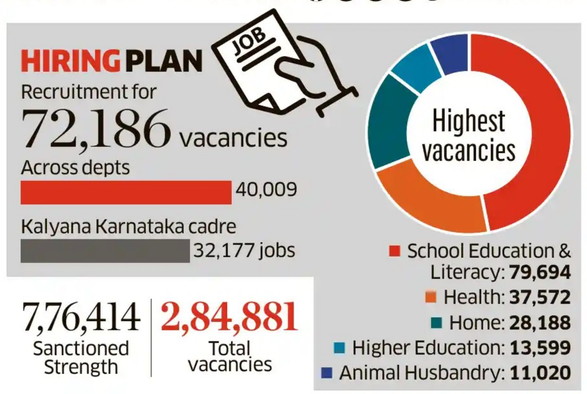
No US trade deal till India gets competitive edge: Goyal

Page 16



DKS sets 6-month deadline to fill 72,000 vacancies

To notify recruitment in 2 months, exams in 4 months

D K Shivakumar

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has set a six-month deadline to fill 72,186 vacant government posts, appointing two senior bureaucrats to oversee the recruitment process.

Shivakumar has appointed Additional Chief Secretary-cum-Development Commissioner Uma Mahadevan to oversee the recruitment process in 17 departments. Additional Chief Secretary Gaurav Gupta has been tasked with 34 departments.

The government has ordered that the recruitment notification be issued in two months, the recruitment exams held in four months and the entire process finished in six months.

The order was issued by the Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms (DPAR), which reports directly to Shivakumar.

Direct recruitment will be done to departments like school education, agriculture, rural development & panchayat raj, home, cooperation, social welfare, revenue, labour, public works, forest, health and so on.

This signals Shivakumar's focus on jobs. He has already announced an employment exchange for private sector jobs. "While we promote job growth in the private sector, the low-hanging fruit is government jobs, which need to be filled up on a fast-track basis," CM's Financial Advisor L K Atheeq said.

In the 2026-27 Budget, the government said the process of filling up 56,432 posts was on. Due to delays caused in finalising internal reservation among Scheduled Castes, the government has granted a one-time relaxation of five years in the upper age limit.

The 72,186 posts that will be filled up in six months include 56,432 vacancies.

The Congress government is under pressure to fill up vacancies.

In its 2023 election manifesto, Congress had promised to fill up all government vacancies in one year.

Between 2023 and 2025, the government managed to fill up only 8,157 posts through the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) and the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA). The government is also planning a recruitment calendar in order to streamline hiring and give job aspirants a sense of certainty.

▸ Vacancies, Page 8

Plan being readied to desilt TB Dam: Union minister

VITTAL SHASTRI
MUNIRABAD (KOPPAL DISTRICT), DHNS

Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil on Thursday said that a plan is being prepared to remove silt from the Tungabhadra dam.

Patil stated that the onus is on all chief ministers from the three riparian states to implement the project and said that the Union government was willing to provide technical assistance for the project.

Union Minister C R Patil

"The dam's storage capacity will increase by 25-30% if the project is successful. This will enable farmers to get two crops every year. Proper water utilisation will help them increase their revenue," Patil stated.

Patil said that in around 6,600 reservoirs across the country, 15% of the storage is filled with silt and the Union government is preparing a detailed project to remove the silt. The Union minister was addressing a public meeting after inaugurating the newly replaced 33 crest gates of the 73-year-old Tungabhadra dam.

At least 188 dead as 2 strong earthquakes hit Venezuela

SHOCKER: Thousands more feared dead; 24,000 unaccounted for

CARACAS, AGENCIES

Rescue teams raced Thursday to the areas hardest hit by a pair of powerful earthquakes that rocked Venezuela, killing at least 188 people, injuring more than 1,500 and trapping many beneath collapsed buildings.

Wednesday evening's 7.2- and 7.5-magnitude earthquakes were among the strongest to strike Venezuela in more than a century and could be felt throughout the region.

The country's main airport was damaged and closed, while buildings were evacuated in places as far away as Brazil's Amazon, about 1,700 km from Venezuela's capital, Caracas.

The US Geological Survey said the first earthquake, with a magnitude of 7.2, hit west of Moron on the Caribbean coast, about 170 km west of Caracas. It had a depth of 22 km. Just a minute later, USGS reported a second 7.5 magnitude earthquake, with a depth of 10 km and an epicenter 16 km southwest of Moron.

Television broadcasts Thursday showed rescue workers using power tools to work their way into piles of rubble where buildings once stood.

Acting President Delcy Rodríguez said authorities were shifting rescue teams from other parts of the country to La Guaira, which sits north of Caracas on the coast.

Officials were trying to make the most of the daylight hours to speed up efforts to rescue people believed to remain trapped under the rubble. Authorities warned people against returning to homes with structural damage.

A website set up to track missing people by leaders from the country's opposition listed more than 24,000 people as unaccounted.

Many Venezuelans were at home when the quakes struck during a public holiday.

Footage on state TV showed three children, covered in dust but alive, pulled from the rubble in La Guaira state, which Rodríguez described as a "disaster zone".

Parts of the capital lost power and cellphone coverage, and the quakes damaged and closed Simón Bolívar International Airport, the country's main airport. Countries from across the world have begun to send aid to Venezuela.

Related report, Page 15

Buildings damaged by an earthquake in Catia La Mar, Venezuela, on Thursday. AP

1ST QUAKE
7.2 Magnitude
Epicentre: West of Moron, around 170km from Caracas
Time: 10.04 pm (GMT)
Depth: 22 km

2ND QUAKE
7.5 Magnitude
Epicentre: West of Moron
Time: Within a minute of first quake
Depth: 10 km

- Venezuela sits near multiple fault lines
- Strong earthquakes much less common than in other parts of Latin America
- Last major quake to hit country: 7.7-magnitude in 1900

India ready to help: Modi

PM Narendra Modi said on Thursday that India was ready to assist Venezuela after two powerful earthquakes killed hundreds of people. "We pray for the speedy recovery of those injured and stand in solidarity with all those affected... India stands ready to extend all possible assistance," Modi said in a statement.

Commercial LPG supplies restored as West Asia crisis eases

NEW DELHI, DHNS: In a major relief to hotels, restaurants, and industrial users, the Centre on Thursday restored liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) supplies to commercial consumers to pre-crisis levels and lifted all sector-specific restrictions imposed during the recent West Asia conflict.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas announced that all restrictions on non-domestic packed LPG have been removed, allowing commercial consumers to receive supplies at levels prevailing before the crisis. Bulk LPG supplies, which were fully suspended initially, have been partially resumed at 50% of pre-crisis consumption levels, a statement from the Ministry said.

The decision follows a significant improvement in domestic LPG production and the expected arrival of imported cargoes.

The ministry stated that the move will provide substantial relief to commercial and industrial consumers who faced severe curbs during the war. The restrictions were introduced after the Iran-related conflict disrupted LPG imports from West Asia, which accounts for nearly 90% of India's cooking gas imports.

▸ LPG, Page 8

FIR lodged over Ram temple 'embezzlement'

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Two days after an SIT submitted its interim report on the alleged embezzlement of offerings at the Ram temple in Ayodhya, an FIR was lodged on Thursday against five people and some unidentified persons in connection with the matter.

According to sources, the FIR was based on a complaint by Krishna Mohan, a member of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust.

Those named in the FIR were Anukalp Mishra, Luvkush Mishra, Avinash Shukla, Ramashankar Yadav and Manish Yadav.

The case has been registered under sections 306 (theft by clerk or servant of property in possession of master), 316 (criminal breach of trust), 317 (dishonestly receiving stolen property) and 61 (criminal conspiracy) of the BNS.

The FIR was registered after the SIT collected evidence pertaining to the alleged embezzlement.

The sources said the SIT has found irregularities in the counting of cash and lack of effective supervision.

Half of state reeling under water crisis, govt braces for drought

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government on Thursday asked officials to start preparing for a possible drought, with Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara saying that 122 out of 236 taluks — more than half of the state — were facing drinking water shortage.

Parameshwara met senior officials from the government's disaster management wing and took stock of the situation.

Officials were directed to coordinate with various departments and take necessary measures to tackle drought conditions that may arise from the impact of a 'Super' El Niño, Parameshwara said.

Parameshwara said he extensively discussed with officials the possible impact of the 'Super' El Niño as part of global climate anomalies, the problems people may face due to inadequate rainfall and the likelihood of drought-like conditions in some parts of the state.

"Keeping the possibility of drought in mind, district-wise action plans should be prepared to ensure drinking water availability, fodder for livestock, management of agricultural activities and water conservation," Parameshwara said. He directed the officials to monitor reservoir levels, groundwater conditions and water usage. The government has taken on rent 789 private borewells to supply water to 669 villages, Parameshwara added.

▸ Drought, Page 8

A dried up agriculture field in Harobelavadi. DH PHOTO

MIS for Totapuri mangoes

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has approved procurement of Totapuri mangoes from Karnataka under the Marketing Intervention Scheme for the 2026-27 season.
Details on Page 6

Non-official India, Pak talks in third countries

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Some eminent Indian and Pakistani personalities recently held 'Track-II' dialogues, days after RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat suggested the doors of dialogue between the two nations should be kept open.

The dialogues were held without the involvement of two governments, though they were aware of it. The recent dialogue in Colombo had followed similar talks in Bangkok.

Details on Page 13

Amazon to invest $13 bn more in India

BENGALURU, DHNS: E-commerce giant Amazon on Thursday announced plans to invest an additional $13 billion in India to expand AI and cloud infrastructure by 2030. This is in addition to its previous commitment of over $35 billion.

Amazon CEO Andy Jassy met PM Narendra Modi on Thursday and announced the additional investment.

Details on Page 16

STATE RAIDS

Excise dept an organised ring, says ED; seizes Rs 13 cr

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday termed the Karnataka Excise Department an organised syndicate and seized Rs 13.3 crore in crime proceeds following raids on officials.

ED also alleged that most of the officers in the department obtained liquor licences in benami names.

Simultaneous raids were held on Wednesday on 14 locations in Bengaluru, Mysuru and Belagavi on the allegation of systemic corruption in the state excise department and hoarding of wealth by government officials.

The searches primarily covered Y Manjunath, who is the Additional Excise Commissioner, Enforcement and Crime, Belagavi, and his alleged associates.

He is the brother-in-law of Satish Jarkiholi, who is the Public Works Minister in the Congress government.

Satish's brothers are Ramesh, Balachandra, both BJP MLAs, Lakhan, a Legislative Council member, and Bhimshi, an entrepreneur.

Jagdish Nayak and K M Thammanna were other excise officials covered in the raids.

The ED alleged that the entire state excise department operated like an organised syndicate network of public officials, their associates and private individuals for the collection of bribes.

"The network works like a well-oiled machine, which runs on corruption money generated by various excise shops, which pay a fixed monthly bribe to field officers. The money is also generated during the renewal and shifting of licences and during the issue of fresh licences. The bribe so collected is centrally pooled and distributed with the help of intermediaries and associates, who maintain an account of money received and paid in an unofficial cash book (seized from one premises)," the ED said in a statement.

The investigation further revealed that the proceeds of crime were used by individual officers for personal consumption, investment in properties and business.

▸ Excise dept, Page 8

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Police arrest 12 in Rs 17.64-lakh crypto fraud, robbery case; victim assaulted

Accused allegedly lured the man into a USDT exchange deal

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Sanjaynagar police have arrested 12 people for allegedly cheating and robbing a man under the pretext of converting his cash into cryptocurrency.

The arrested have been identified as Kareem Khan, 31, Waseem Khan, 40, Mohammed Ismail, 29, Rehan A, 27, Suhaib Javid, 20, Ayan Mukherjee, 21, Akheel Mohammed, 26, Tausif, 32, Liyaqath Sharif, 33, Afjal Khan, 27, Mujameel, 23, and Imran Pasha, 40.

According to the police, the complainant, a resident of Kodigehalli, was planning to open a café on the Sira Highway and was looking to purchase kitchen tiles, cutlery, and equipment online. A friend informed him that these items could be sourced at lower prices from China and Japan, but payments would have to be made in cryptocurrency.

The complainant subsequently joined a WhatsApp group related to USDT cryptocurrency trading. Through the group, he came in contact with a member who, on June 8, exchanged cryptocurrency worth Rs 2.50 lakh for cash.

As he required a larger quantity of cryptocurrency, the complainant contacted the same person on June 9 and sought to convert Rs 17.64 lakh into USDT.

The suspect asked him to come to Kalpana Chawla Road in Sanjaynagar that night. The complainant arrived at the location carrying Rs 17.64 lakh in cash, accompanied by his brother and a friend.

Police said the accused arrived at the spot and snatched the cash without transferring any cryptocurrency. He assaulted the complainant, his brother, and friend, and fled.

Based on a complaint, the police registered a case and launched an investigation. The accused were subsequently traced and arrested.

Police recovered Rs 13.90 lakh in cash, 13 mobile phones, a car, and six two-wheelers used in the crime.

Further investigation is underway, police said.

Habitual offender wanted in 67 cases arrested in Banaswadi

Syed Basha

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Banaswadi police have arrested a 38-year-old habitual offender in connection with a house break-in and found that he was wanted in as many as 67 criminal cases across Karnataka.

The accused has been identified as Syed Basha, a resident of Kadugodi.

Police said he had been evading court proceedings and absconding in more than 30 non-bailable warrant (NBW) cases and over five proclamation cases.

A resident of HRBR Layout lodged a complaint with the Banaswadi police on March 23, alleging that an unidentified man had broken open the terrace door of his house and stolen Rs 10,000 in cash from a cupboard while the family was away.

The police launched an investigation and gathered clues through technical analysis and informer networks.

Acting on credible information, a police team secured Basha near Bagalur on June 16.

During interrogation, the police found that Basha had a long criminal history, with around 67 cases registered against him in Bengaluru city, Kolar and Yadgir districts.

Basha was remanded to judicial custody, and further investigation is underway, police said.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Electrical Inspectorate of Karnataka: National Electricity Safety Day, Gaurav Gupta and others; NGO Hall, Cubbon Park; 10.30 am.

Malai Mahadeshwara Samskrutika Janapada Kala Trust: Ekatari Festival and distribution of ekataris; Siddaraju Swamiji, ST Somshekhar and others; Kalagrama, Mallattahalli; 11 am.

CULTURAL

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan: Art exhibition Chitra Bharati; 11 am.

Rangashankara: Staging of play 'Bali: The Sacrifice' by Theatre Nisha; Rangashankara, JP Nagar; 3.30 pm.

Akhila Karnataka Brahmana Mahasabha: Music by Ananya Jayatirtha Desai, Prabhakar Vasantarao Pathwari Sakin, Madhusudan Koppa Sajin, Gururaj N Joshi and others; Mahasabha premises, Gayatri Bhavan, Banashankari 2nd Stage; 6.30 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Ragigudda Sri Prasanna Anjaneya Swami Bhaktamandali Trust: Discourse on Bhagavatadalli Narayana Parva by Pvamanachar; Trust premises, Jayanagar 9th Block; 6.30 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	30.5°C
Minimum	20.8°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	78%
Sunset (June 26)	6:49 pm
Sunrise (June 27)	5:56 am
Moonrise	3:04 pm
Moonset	2:02 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Pension adalat in Bengaluru on Monday

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), a unit of ISRO under the Department of Space, will conduct a pension adalat on Monday in Bengaluru to address grievances of pensioners and family pensioners.

The event will be held at 2 pm at the LPSC Bengaluru campus.

Those with unresolved issues can submit their grievances to the Senior Administrative Officer, LPSC Bengaluru, by post or via email at sado@lpscb.gov.in.

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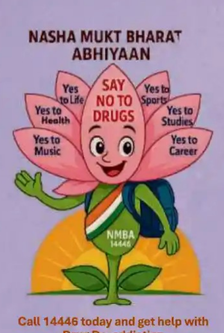

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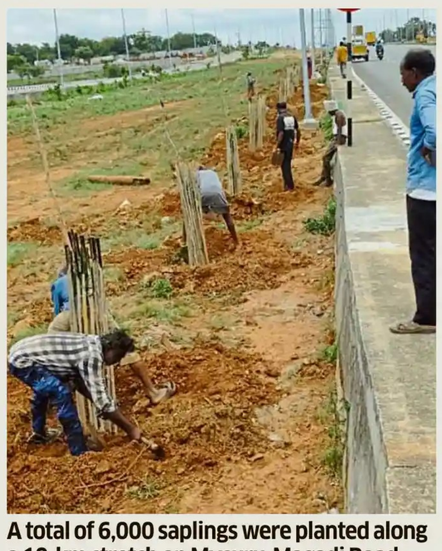


A total of 6,000 saplings were planted along a 10-km stretch on Mysuru-Magadi Road.

Blooming trees to brighten Mysuru-Magadi Road

The 'colour corridor' project is spearheaded by UnboxingBLR

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

The Bengaluru tunnel road project is expected to result in the chopping of close to 300 trees, per initial estimates. In more recent news, an estimated 749 trees are likely to be chopped down to make way for the elevated corridor from Indiranagar to Silk Board. As trees become an increasingly rare sighting within the city, a 10-km stretch on Mysuru-Magadi Road on the outskirts is set to get an avenue of 6,000 trees through a project titled Bloom Avenue, spearheaded by city-based NGO UnboxingBLR.

"A stretch that's already built out and densely populated will see incremental greening. But a corridor that's still being established is where you can actually design the green DNA into the neighbourhood from the beginning," says Malini Goyal, CEO of UnboxingBLR, adding, "We wanted to bring back what the city was earlier known for. Trees were not just planted; corridors were designed."

The team identified seven different species — a majority of native and a few non-native trees — such as champak, bauhinia, *Cardia sebestena*, pride of India and tabebuia. The saplings, sourced from the BDA forest division at no cost, will form six distinct 'colour corridors'. It starts from yellow (*Tabebuia argentea* and champak) and moves to purple and pink (*Bauhinia purpurea* and *Tabebuia avellanedae*), and crimson and lavender (*Cardia sebestena* and pride of India), before progressing to yellow and pink (champak and *Bauhinia purpurea*), lavender and crimson (pride of India and *Cardia sebestena*) and pink (*Tabebuia rosea*). The trees, flanking both sides of the main road and service road, will bloom at different times of the year, ensuring the avenue is colourful through most months. For instance, champak will be in bloom from June to September, while the flame of the forest will flower from February to April, and *Bauhinia purpurea* will bloom from September to November.

The project is divided into two phases. After the first phase of site mapping, horticulturist consultation, species selection and budget finalisation, "the saplings are currently in the ground, the pits are filled, and the three-year maintenance clock has started," shares Malini. Apart from the three-year maintenance, on completion of phase two, the team will publish an impact study. Subsequently, the avenue will be maintained by the BDA.

"We've prioritised indigenous species that don't need the kind of intensive chemical intervention that exotics do. As they mature, they'll create habitat. Pride of India and champak in particular are known to attract specific bird species and pollinators. The canopy, over time, will reduce the urban heat island effect on what is currently a fairly exposed stretch of road," she explains.

Session on inclusivity in art

POORVI SANATH
TEAM METROLIFE

Jamaica Moana

Rapper, songwriter and ballroom leader Jamaica Moana will discuss queer art and community-building with artist and archivist Mira Brunner.

In their session, titled 'Beats, Ballrooms, and Belonging', they will explore the many ideas that come together through queer art. "We will discuss what it means to be proud, to show up publicly, and to make space (for one another)," said Mira.

A Maori and Samoan artist, Moana adds, "I'm so excited to be in India for the first time. Art, community and pride are at the forefront of my work, and I am grateful for this opportunity to discuss these topics."

Moana is the co-founder of The West Ball, an initiative that creates a safe space for queer, trans and Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) communities through ballroom culture. Mira is a visual artist and the chief archivist of the Queer Archive for Memory Reflection and Activism (QAMRA). Her practice explores queer ways of being, queer resistance, and how to make archives more accessible.

On June 29, 6.30 pm, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. RSVP to bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

CITY MIX

Fred Again is an English record producer. PIC: FREDAGAIN.COM

Fred Again on debut India tour

English record producer Fred Again is scheduled to perform at NICE Grounds in Bengaluru on December 13. This will be his debut tour of India, during which he will also perform in Delhi-NCR and Mumbai. He is expected to perform tracks from his debut album 'Actual Life' and his latest release, 'USB'. *Tickets will go live on in.bookmyshow.com on June 30.*

Psychological drama on society

The Bangalore Theatre Collective will stage a psychological drama titled 'Kattala Neralu' on July 1, at 7.30 pm, at Ranga Shankara, J P Nagar. Set in a single room, the play revolves around two people and explores questions of consent and the social structures that fail children. *Tickets on in.bookmyshow.com*

Session on food and memories

A workshop designed for senior citizens will explore the personal and collective relationships people develop with the living world. Titled 'Conversations with Food', it will use food memories, stories and everyday practices as a lens to understand how ecological knowledge travels across generations. *On June 28, 4 pm, at Museum of Art & Photography, Kasturba Road. Entry free, registration mandatory. Visit map-india.org*

Classical ode to Indian heritage

A Bharatanatyam recital titled 'Nruthya Sammilana' will pay tribute to India's cultural heritage on June 28, 10 am, at Medai, Museum Road. Presented by Natanam Institute of Dance, it will feature young dancers Maanasa Ranga and Divya Vijayalakshmi. They will be accompanied by an ensemble comprising Raksha Karthik (nattuvangam), Balasubramanya Sharma (vocal), Gopal Venkataramana (veena), Bhavani Shankar (mridangam), Prasanna Kumar (rhythm), and Deepak Hebbar (flute). *Entry free.*

To get your event listed, write to **metrolife@deccanherald.co.in**

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

For major surgery healed and good health of G.T. special intention of W.T favours received.
- G.T. & Family

Thanksgiving

For major surgery healed and good health of G.T. special Intention of W.T. favours received.
- G.T. & Family

Why does B'luru feel lonely?

A man's Reddit post asking strangers to pose as his friends to impress his girlfriend has sparked conversations about loneliness and belonging

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

In a recent Reddit post, a Bengaluru man reached out to strangers to play the role of his 'long-time friends' all to impress a girl. The incident has reignited a familiar discussion: in a metropolis of millions, why do so many people still feel lonely?

Inspired by the 2015 comedy, 'The Wedding Ringer', the 30-year-old's post received nearly 1,000 responses. After screening applicants and conducting interviews, he chose five strangers to pretend to be his friends. He revealed that his difficulty in forming meaningful connections led him to take this unusual step.

Psychologists note

Mental health professionals say loneliness is becoming increasingly common among migrants and young professionals, especially since the pandemic.

Mental health coach Sneha Fernandes said she sees at least 2-3 loneliness-related clients per month, and that many are migrants aged 23-32. She also estimated that 70-80% of such clients had moved to Bengaluru for work.

Psychologist Afifa Kauser describes it as an "epidemic", particularly among people in their mid-to-late 20s and early 30s. "Migrants are especially vulnerable as they move away from established support systems and start over in a new city," she says.

Psychotherapist Kala Balasubramanian notes that loneliness can worsen anxiety and depression. Long commutes, demanding work, and a preference for online interactions hinder meaningful connections, and monotonous routines contribute to feelings of loneliness.

Similarly, psychiatrist Dr Safiya notes that people rarely seek help for loneliness directly. Instead, they arrive with the consequences of it, such as relationship difficulties, anxiety, substance use or a sense of not belonging.

Experts report that many patients turn to addictions — such as drug abuse, pornography, and online validation — to cope with loneliness. Sneha recalls working with an IT professional who, driven by loneliness, began soliciting himself to strangers he encountered online in search of companionship. Another patient developed a habit of seeking validation through casual encounters arranged through the internet. She noted that only 70-80% of clients who continue counselling show improvement.

Professionals say that while not every lonely newcomer develops unhealthy coping mechanisms, prolonged isolation can make people more vulnerable to addictions, compulsive online behaviour, and anxiety.

Transactional connections

Despite the challenges, most newcomers stressed that Bengaluru itself is not unfriendly, but hinders deeper connections.

Ekta Khemchandani, a content designer who moved from Delhi, notes, "Many people move here only for a short period of time, so friendships can feel transactional." She adds that "long commutes and packed schedules make maintaining relationships difficult".

A chartered accountant working in consulting echoes the sentiment. Despite being surrounded by people at work, at home and meeting new people regularly, she still finds it difficult to make close friends.

Finding a tribe

For many newcomers, loneliness is about a lack of belonging rather than a lack of people.

Achuuth moved from Mysuru to Bengaluru in 2023 and started a WhatsApp group that began as a way to help newcomers form platonic friendships. It has now grown into a large community that holds regular meetups. "There is a difference between being alone and being lonely," he says.

Sneha echoes his view. "People often think loneliness is about being alone, but many of my clients feel lonely despite being surrounded by people. The absence of genuine connection is what affects them the most," she points out.

Aravind Anil moved to Bengaluru for work with only one friend in the city. He joined book clubs, football groups and online communities to meet people. Two years later, despite landing a remote job, he continues to live in Bengaluru largely because of the social circle he built here.

The Reddit post is far from the only example of people going to unusual lengths to find a connection. Mental health professionals shared examples of people maintaining exaggerated images of themselves to gain acceptance. Dr Safiya shares that one patient reportedly fabricated a story about having a serious illness because the sympathy helped her feel connected to others. Others have lied about their identities or interests to fit into social groups.

Making room for queer love

Couples say finding a house is only the first step towards inclusion; finding acceptance remains a bigger challenge

SUBHASHINI RAMASAMY
TEAM METROLIFE

While Pride month celebrates love in all forms, queer couples in the city still struggle to find homes free from judgement, discrimination, or the fear of eviction.

Four years ago, when Noel Vaz was house hunting with his then partner, a landlord spotted his painted nails and turned them away. "After that, I would always take off my nail paint while house hunting. We then found a place and pretended to be cousins, just to be safe," shares Noel. The gay couple was even "interviewed" by the landlord, an experience that other tenants were never subjected to.

Ankur Bhatnagar (left) and Deepak Sharma have found more acceptance after Section 377 was struck down in 2018.

Lesbian couple Nikita Prakash (aka Nick) and Sayantika Majumder, who have been living together for over five years now, still tiptoe around their neighbours, careful not to disclose their relationship.

"When we first rented a flat, we pretended to be family friends because we feared eviction," says Sayantika. The couple thought it would get easier if they owned a home instead. "When we bought a flat, we were not able to avail a joint home loan, leaving only one of us as the owner," says Nick. They limit interactions with neighbours and are cautious in their building's common spaces.

To be 'seen'

Couples who come out to landlords and neighbours feel they are not 'seen'. Sudipto Pal and Biman Chattopadhyay, who have been open about their relationship for 16 years now, observe that their neighbours tend to forget they are partners.

"They call Biman my 'bhai' or 'dost' despite telling them he is my partner. They don't acknowledge it," says Sudipto.

A transgender man from the community describes a different form of invisibility. Living with his cisgender male partner, they are often mistaken for a straight couple, which, though not ideal, makes them feel "safer", he says.

PRIDE MONTH

Deepak Sharma and Ankur Bhatnagar, a gay couple living in a gated community, came out to their neighbours after Section 377 was struck down. "Some of them distanced themselves, others were accepting," says Ankur.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

According to the Karnataka Rent Act, 1999, and its amendments, eviction can only happen on grounds like non-payment of rent, unauthorised subletting, or property damage. "Although landlords cannot evict someone without these grounds, queer couples continue to face barriers as there is no comprehensive anti-discrimination law," says advocate Harikrishnan R from Alternative Law Forum. He adds that the Supreme Court's landmark Navtej Singh Johar (2018) judgment and related judgments affirm queer people's rights to dignity, privacy, equality, and autonomy. Last year, the Madras High Court held that same-sex couples can constitute a family even without a marriage. It had earlier suggested a 'deed of familial association' to recognise the civil union between partners. Harikrishnan says he is exploring whether such a deed can be registered in Bengaluru, but it remains experimental.

HIT FILM STRIKES CHORD

Homes they longed to return to

Bengaluru families recount Partition stories passed down by their elders

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Imtiaz Ali's latest film, 'Main Vaapas Aaunga', has reignited conversations about the lasting trauma of Partition. At its centre is an elderly man with dementia who is haunted by a promise he made to the woman he loved in Sargodha, now in Pakistan. The riots of 1947 forced them apart, but he had vowed to return.

Stories of loss and longing from Partition also resonate with some families in Bengaluru. Unlike the film's protagonist, who keeps his grief buried until his final days, the elders in these families did speak about Partition, but never in much detail. The memories were too painful to revisit, and with time, many details had also faded.

Manya (name changed) recalls a wish her maternal great-grandmother repeated until her death at 40. "She wanted to see her haveli (mansion) in Peshawar and recover jewellery she had buried near a mango tree in the backyard. She remembered the exact spot," says the 23-year-old.

Manya learnt about her family's past when she was around eight. After she said she wanted to be a princess, her mother smiled and said, "You technically were. Your great-grandparents lived a nawabi life." Until then, Manya only knew of their humble beginnings in Bengaluru, where the family ran a small travelling exhibition for children. "They arrived as refugees in Jayanagar's 3rd Block. Nobody would give them work, so they bought a merry-go-round and a wooden Ferris wheel to start over," she says.

Reshma Ram Darira's ancestors also rebuilt their lives from scratch, selling combs and hairpins at bus stands in Gujarat before finding their footing in the textile trade in Akkipet, Bengaluru. But her maternal grandmother never stopped missing her home near the Sindh river, where she and her husband prayed to Jhulelal. "Eight of us cousins would visit her home in High Point every Saturday, and she would insist we stay back. We would laugh and ask, 'Nani, how would we all fit in here?' That's when she would say, 'My home in Sindh had large rooms. It had a kitchen with a storeroom where the ration boxes were always full'," recalls the homemaker.

Disha Sharma's paternal grandfather (in cap) with family and friends. Following Partition, the family from Hyderabad in Sindh migrated to Kamaraj Road in Bengaluru.

For Disha Sharma's paternal grandmother, memories of Shikarpur remained vivid all her life. She spoke of Sindhi street food, especially chola dhabal (spicy chana curry served over flatbread), of streets sprinkled with rose water, and of friends who got scattered across the world.

Her grandparents never tried to visit Pakistan because of their age, and they had nobody they knew there. "So we showed them videos on YouTube. They saw the Jhulelal Temple in Nasarpur and said, 'Same hai (It's the same)'," says the entrepreneur, who resides in Sindhi Colony.

Akshay Kukreja's grandparents also hailed from Shikarpur. After moving through Mumbai and Salem, the family settled in Kumara Park in the late 1960s and worked as financiers. "As Sindhis uprooted from Sindh, what they missed most was a sense of identity," says the 30-year-old businessman.

While some elders spoke over sighs and in passing remarks, others burst into anger over the hard times they had fallen on, such as Sagar Kataria's great-grandfather.

A wealthy cloth merchant, he owned two properties, including one in Karachi. "As rumours of riots gained steam, he was offered one lakh rupees to sell the Karachi property and advised to leave. But he refused," shares the chef, whose family first settled at Guttahalli. Like many, his great-grandfather believed the displacement was temporary and that they would one day return home.

Teen arrested after drilling through shop wall, stealing Rs12.5L silver

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Halasuru police have arrested a 19-year-old school dropout for allegedly drilling through the wall of a shop in east Bengaluru and stealing silver ornaments worth Rs 12.50 lakh, officials said on Thursday.

Teja, the suspect

The accused, identified as Teja from Shankarapuram in Tamil Nadu, allegedly used a wall-cutting tool to break into a shop on Car Street, Halasuru, on April 29. He reportedly fled with around 10 kg of silver ornaments.

Following a complaint, the police registered a case.

CCTV footage was examined and, with the help of local intelligence, Teja was identified as the suspect. He was arrested from Shankarapuram on May 20.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime. He was produced before a court the same day and remanded to police custody for 20 days.

Police said Teja learnt about the shop during a visit to Bengaluru where a relative resides. Since the shop appeared old and vulnerable, he purchased a wall cutter and carried out the burglary at night by cutting through the dilapidated brick wall.

Has no prior record

A police officer said he has no prior criminal record and committed the offence to meet personal expenses.

Investigators further said the stolen silver ornaments were sold to a jewellery shop in Madanur, Tamil Nadu.

The police recovered 5 kg of silver on June 1. He was produced before the court again on June 2 and remanded to judicial custody.

Residents flag growing garbage crisis around Turahalli forest

Raise alarm over civic neglect and ecological damage

PUSHKAR V & AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

One of Bengaluru's few remaining forested lung spaces, Turahalli Forest, is increasingly being turned into a dumping ground for garbage, construction debris and discarded household items, raising concerns among residents and forest officials alike.

Waste is not only piling up along both sides of the 1.2-kilometre forest road stretch, but it is also finding its way into the forest itself.

Residents living near the forest said the waste is largely generated by commuters, small restaurants and condiment shops operating in the vicinity.

Chaithanya Subrahmanya, a resident near the forest, said, "Households, small hoteliers and commuters throw waste along the roadside during late-night hours or early morning. This has become difficult to track. Pan masala packets and used oil packets indicate that some of the waste is coming from nearby eateries."

On one side of the road, ceramic commodes, discarded thermocol boxes and construction debris were also found dumped.

The same stretch has developed several potholes, making commuting difficult, particularly for two-wheeler riders. Poorly lit sections of the road have further added to safety concerns, especially among women.

KC Chandrashekhara, another resident, blamed the issue on a lack of civic responsibility among people using the road.

"People need to understand that this is a forest and an eco-sensitive zone. They simply dump garbage and drive away. This lack of civic sense is the reason for the growing waste problem in the area," he said.

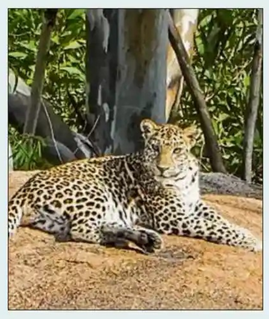
Turahalli Forest's 1.2-km stretch is turning into a dumping ground, with unchecked waste piling up. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Speaking to *DH*, Naveen Kumar Raju, Additional Commissioner (Development), Bengaluru South City Corporation, said, "While the forest itself does not fall under our jurisdiction, the garbage hotspots and streetlight issues will be addressed immediately." He also directed the officials concerned to impose fines on establishments found dumping waste.

Officials noted that despite repeated clean-up drives, garbage continues to reappear at the same locations.

NR Kamble, Range Forest Officer, Kaggalipura Range, said the dumping has led to plastic waste entering the forest ecosystem.

"We have caught people dumping waste during the early hours and reprimanded them, but it has had little impact," he said.



Leopard habitat under threat

Rakshitha Sridhar, a resident, said, "We have repeatedly spotted leopards here and almost everyone living nearby is aware of their presence. This is their habitat, and we must learn to coexist with wildlife. People should know better than to jump fences and dump garbage."

Forest officials reiterated that four leopards currently reside in the forest, making the protection of the area even more critical.

KR Puram triple murder: Accused had planned to usurp parents' property

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The sensational triple murder in KR Puram was allegedly planned well in advance, with investigators suspecting that prime accused, Shwetha, intended to usurp her parents' property and had discussed eliminating them with her live-in partner Kenneth before carrying out the crime.

The KR Puram police on Thursday secured seven days of custody of Shwetha, 25, to conduct detailed interrogation into the case that has shocked the city. She was arrested in Puducherry on Tuesday night and produced before a magistrate court, which granted police custody for further investigation.

Three special teams have been formed to trace Kenneth, 26, who remains absconding.

A senior police officer said preliminary interrogation suggests Shwetha felt neglected by her parents and believed her personal freedom was being restricted. Kenneth allegedly exploited these grievances and encouraged her resentment toward the family.

Shwetha

During questioning, she allegedly stated that she had mentally decided to kill her mother after the confrontation. She later discussed the plan with Kenneth, including ways to dispose of the bodies and destroy the evidence.

According to investigators, Shwetha and Kenneth killed Muthulakshmi on Monday afternoon and dragged her body into a bathroom. Shortly after, Shwetha's sister Supriya, who entered the hall, was stabbed to death. Her father Somasundar, who arrived later, was also attacked and later succumbed in a private hospital.

Police are also probing whether the murders were driven by family disputes, financial stress, and an alleged plan to gain control of the family's assets, as Shwetha's parents were reportedly opposed to her relationship with Kenneth.

After the killings, the accused — both tech professionals — fled the apartment and went to a house in HAL, where they washed off the bloodstains before escaping towards Puducherry on a motorcycle.

Had debts of Rs 30L

It is also alleged that Shwetha had accumulated debts of around Rs 30 lakh linked to a startup venture she was pursuing with Kenneth. However, police said this claim is yet to be verified, as no documentary or banking evidence has been recovered so far.

The case came to light after Somasundar (52), a software engineer, his wife Muthulakshmi (48), and their younger daughter Supriya (19), a degree student, were found murdered in their rented flat at Sai Gardens apartment in Seegehalli, KR Puram on Monday.

DH
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Almost every locality in Bengaluru has a street corner or vacant plot that has turned into an informal garbage dump. These black spots are not merely an eyesore; they are a threat to public health and the environment. Deccan Herald and Prajavani invite citizens to share details and photographs of such sites for publication in these columns, in order to help push for timely action from the authorities.

Heaps of garbage line GEAR School Road, Doddakannelli, highlighting the ongoing struggle to keep the city clean. RAVINDRA SINGH, DODDAKENNELLI

The dumping and handling of garbage on 18th Main Road, Padmanabhanagar, next to Prarthana and Deccan International schools, continue to inconvenience the public. KARTHIK, PADMANABHANAGAR

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MOBILITY MONITOR

Chaotic junctions, blocked footpaths, haphazard parking, last-mile gaps and occasional potholes continue to prevent the South Bengaluru corridor from becoming a commuter's delight. Long-term planning and better public transport could change that.

Kanakapura Road: Metro gives hope, BMTC getting better but traffic still disappoints

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The gateway to the bustling corridor of Kanakapura Road is Banashankari Junction.

The sprawling intersection links the bus and metro stations, the Sri Banashankari Temple and the busy market around it. But despite its strategic location, it remains highly chaotic and poorly maintained: piles of rotting garbage lie beneath the metro station, anxious passengers dart across the junction, buses honk nonstop, footpaths are broken or missing, and there is little or no signage.

In short, a junction with the potential to become a major transit hub continues to languish for want of planning and foresight.

Further down lies Sarakki Junction, nicknamed the 'Second Silk Board'. Located next to the JP Nagar metro station, it is the corridor's biggest chokepoint. In 2024, it handled traffic equivalent to 12,596 passenger car units (PCUs).

Beyond Sarakki lies Konanakunte Cross, home to the eponymous metro station and the Forum South mall.

Yogeesh Prabhuswamy, a Konanakunte resident and public transport activist, flags pain points in the area.

"The Konanakunte bus stop is a mess. BMTC buses from Kengeri stop near the traffic signal, while those from Banashankari stop before Vasanthapura. These buses stop haphazardly and cause congestion," he says.

A view of Banashankari Junction. (R) Haphazard parking on Kanakapura Road. DH PHOTOS

He adds that bus passengers are forced to walk on broken footpaths, especially near the Total Environment apartment complex, and wait at bus stops without shelters. Parts of the area are poorly lit at night, and parking near the mall causes inconvenience. The Doddakallasandra service road near Nammoora Thindi is in bad condition. He notes that many metro trains terminate at Yelachenahalli, frustrating passengers travelling towards Silk Institute.

LOOKING —SOUTH— KANAKAPURA ROAD

GT Prabhakara Reddy, Chief Traffic Manager (Operations), BMTC, said the corporation planned to introduce more services and increase frequency on routes along Kanakapura Road as its jurisdiction was extended 40 km beyond the city limits.

"Our earlier jurisdiction was up to Harohalli and we operated only ordinary services. In the last year, we have started 16 express services between Banashankari and Harohalli. We are also operating Volvo buses to Kanakapura," he told *DH*.

Many BMTC routes towards the Art of Living now start at Banashankari and there is robust demand for services both within and beyond city limits along this corridor, he noted.

Reddy added that the traffic situation had improved after the metro construction was completed and said the planned remodelling of Banashankari Junction would further ease congestion.

He said feeder buses operate from all metro stations on Kanakapura Road but demand was lower compared to Mysuru Road or Old Madras Road.

Another senior BMRCL official said more Green Line trains would be inducted once coaches supplied by CRRC-Titagarh were commissioned. Three trains could enter service in the coming weeks after statutory approvals are obtained, he added.

The BMRCL also plans to construct a double-decker flyover in Phase 3 to decongest Sarakki Junction. The deadline is 2031.

Manjunath S, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic, South), said congestion on Kanakapura Road had worsened after the Ragigudda double-decker flyover opened.

"There is heavy congestion in the evenings and on weekends. We're deploying personnel to ease the rush," he said.

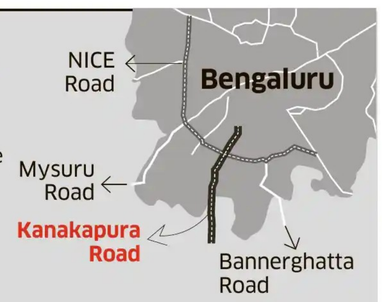
At monthly review meetings, traffic police have urged civic authorities to widen the road, but no firm commitment has been made, he added.

"Junction improvements are being carried to fill potholes, improve footpaths and remove unscientific humps. BMTC buses contribute to congestion, but public transport is essential. Running more metro trains would also help decongest the corridor," he said.

SERIES CONCLUDED

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

- Kanakapura Road's main chokepoints include Banashankari, Sarakki, Konanakunte, Vasanthapura, Vajarahahalli and Raghuvanahalli.



Average passenger footfall

Kanakapura Road metro stations (Oct-Dec 2025)

Banashankari	**6.24** lakh
JP Nagar	**5.61** lakh
Yelachenahalli	**5.45** lakh
Konanakunte Cross	**7.07** lakh
Doddakallasandra	**2.98** lakh
Varajahalli	**3.18** lakh
Thalaghattapura	**1.67** lakh
Silk Institute	**4.09** lakh

Daily trips in Harohalli taluk
1,332

Bus services expand

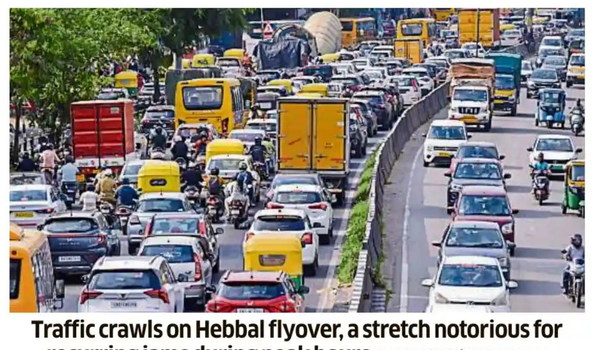
After the state government expanded the BMTC's jurisdiction 40 km beyond the GBA limits late last year, the corporation launched 16 express services between Banashankari and Harohalli, besides starting Volvo services to Kanakapura with 10 buses.

BMTC operates buses for Kanakapura Road from 5 depots

Banashankari	Kathriguppe	Kothanur	Anjanapura	Poornaprajna Layout
20	13	34	44	33

BMTC also operates buses via NICE Road, with an average daily ridership of **16,000**
Feeder buses also run from all metro stations on Kanakapura Road.

BMTC uses Banashankari TTMC to operate buses to Kanakapura Road, Bannerghatta Road, Electronics City, Mysuru Road and Silk Board Junction. It plans to operate more services and increase the frequency of existing ones to destinations along Kanakapura Road.



Traffic crawls on Hebbal flyover, a stretch notorious for recurring jams during peak hours. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Hebbal to Windsor Manor: 3-km stretch takes 70 mins; traffic gridlock worsens

BENGALURU, DHNS

Yet another instance of Bengaluru's severe traffic congestion has triggered outrage among commuters, after a rider reportedly took over 70 minutes to cover less than three kilometres between Hebbal flyover and Windsor Manor on the busy Airport Road corridor.

The incident, shared in a post on X, has drawn attention to the daily struggles faced by commuters navigating one of the city's most congested routes during peak hours.

For thousands of daily commuters entering the city from the northern corridor, such delays are increasingly routine. Vehicles descending from Hebbal flyover often face near standstill conditions, leading to long and unpredictable travel times.

The viral post has sparked criticism on social media, with users questioning traffic management and the slow pace of infrastructure upgrades in the city. Many described the stretch as a daily bottleneck, noting that even officials and public representatives are not exempt from the congestion.

3 km, 70 minutes

- **9 am:** Commuter enters Hebbal flyover
- **9.05 am:** Baptist Hospital Junction
- **9.20 am:** Gangamma Circle
- **9.25 am:** Near Four Seasons Hotel
- **9.35 am:** Mehkri Circle
- **10.10 am:** Reached Windsor Manor Bridge (after 70+ minutes)

Route slowed further through Palace Grounds and Palace Guttahalli before the final stretch

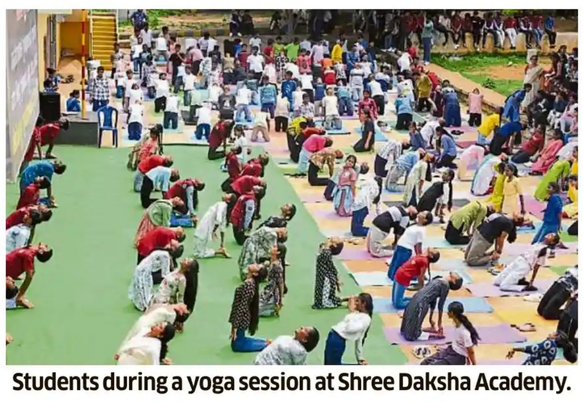
Commuters told *DH* that inadequate road width, rising vehicle density, and delays in long-term mobility solutions are worsening the situation. They called for urgent intervention from the Bengaluru Traffic Police and urban planning agencies to ease congestion along the corridor.

A senior traffic police officer from the West Division attributed the bottleneck between HMT and the Four Seasons Hotel area to narrow road width. The officer said congestion near Cauvery Junction intensifies during peak hours due to the high volume of vehicles, which the stretch is unable to handle.

Canter driver killed in accident

BENGALURU, DHNS: A canter driver was killed after part of a road-milling machine allegedly came loose and struck his vehicle on Mysuru Road early Thursday.

Suheb Malik (25) was driving his canter alongside a road-milling machine after descending the BGS flyover near the Bengaluru Body Builders junction at 5.30 am. As the vehicles approached a hump, a component of the machine got detached due to the impact. While the canter was overtaking the machine, the detached part struck the driver's side of the vehicle, leaving Malik with severe injuries. He died at a hospital. Police have booked the machinery operator.



Students during a yoga session at Shree Daksha Academy.

Yoga Day celebrations at Shree Daksha Academy

BENGALURU, DHNS

Nearly 800 students participated in a mass yoga session organised as part of the International Yoga Day celebrations at Shree Daksha Academy, performing various asanas, pranayama and meditation exercises.

The event was inaugurated by Karibasappa Vatagal, a yoga lecturer at Vivekananda Yoga University.

Among those present were Raghuchandra Shetty, president of Syndicate Bank Layout; Vinaya, an MSc Yoga graduate and student of Vatagal; Master Charith; and members of the college management.

As part of its efforts to promote health and wellness, Shree Daksha Academy will introduce weekly yoga sessions for students to create awareness about the importance of physical and mental well-being and encourage them to adopt healthier lifestyles, according to a news release.

Another metro snag in two days: Commuters stranded at Cubbon Park as doors fail to shut

BENGALURU, DHNS

Metro services on the Purple Line encountered another snag during the peak hour on Thursday after the doors of a train jammed at the Cubbon Park station.

The snag left the Challaghatta-bound train stranded for 17 minutes and delayed at least five services moving in the same direction.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) said commuters were deboarded at Cubbon Park for a safety procedure, which was necessitated by a technical snag. It did not specify the cause. It added that operations and maintenance teams rectified the technical issue and restored the services fully.

However, a passenger said the train's doors appeared to have been jammed as it pulled into Cubbon Park. The locopilot was heard raising the issue by intercom. She said passengers were not deboarded, and the train eventually resumed its journey. BMRCL ran announcements inside trains and at stations informing passengers about delays.

The glitch led to overcrowding at several stations, including MG Road and Majestic.

For many passengers, this looked like a repeat of Tuesday's nightmare, when BMRCL shut down train services from MG Road to Magadi Road following the worst technical snag in its history. Akriti, a corporate worker, said: "This is the second time this week that there has been such a disruption in the metro, especially during peak hours when there are so many people travelling."

Vaishali, another passenger, said: "As the train got delayed at MG Road, it started filling up with people and when it went to Cubbon Park and Vidhana Soudha, more passengers got in. Many passengers started arguing about how little space they had to fit in."

A metro train was stranded with its doors open at the MG Road metro station on Thursday. DH PHOTO/SHRADDHA A K

Surya flags 20 disruptions since Jan '24, seeks audit

Bangalore South MP LS Tejasvi Surya on Thursday urged Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS) to order a comprehensive safety and maintenance audit of BMRCL.

Tejasvi Surya

He said he travelled on the Purple Line on Thursday evening and missed the disruption by just a few minutes.

In a letter to Gowda, he noted that nearly 20 technical faults and service disruptions had occurred since January 2024, mostly on the Purple Line.

Surya questioned inspection practices, sought disclosure of maintenance records and root cause analyses, and asked whether inspections were conducted in-house or outsourced.

He also proposed 10 measures to strengthen operations, including stricter service standards, mandatory investigations into failures, regular operations and maintenance reviews, asset renewal planning, updated maintenance practices, better staff training, filling experienced maintenance posts, timely procurement of critical spares and a centralised emergency response system.

In a separate letter, he requested the CMRS to direct the BMRCL to undertake a comprehensive safety and maintenance audit of its metro operation, and seek and monitor a detailed action-taken report.

UPGRADATION OF NETWORK

E-Tender Notice No.: KIR-N-2026-K-11; dated: 23-06-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Name of work:** Upgradation of Network for Modernisation of PRS Network in Katihar division. Tender Value: ₹3,79,23,723.23; Earnest Money: ₹7,58,500.00. **E-tender will be closed at** 15:00 hrs. on 15-07-2026 and **opened at** 15:30 hrs. on 15-07-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs of 15-07-2026 in website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**.

DRM (S&T), Katihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 222-S/1/W-II Date: 23.06.2026. Following e-Tenders are invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following works:- **Sl. No.**: 1; **Tender No.**: **TN-106-26-27; Name of the Work:** Canning-Proposal for additional stabling line at Canning station. **Tender Value:** ₹ 2,13,65,878.34; **EMD:** ₹ 4,27,300.00; **Sl. No.:** 2; **Tender No.: TN-107-26-27; Name of the Work:** New Block station at KULPI with full length common loop line. **Tender Value:** ₹ 5,58,06,654.98; **EMD:** ₹ 11,16,100.00; **Sl. No.:** 3; **Tender No.: TN-108-26-27; Name of the Work:** At Diamond Harbour- Provision of additional stabling line (CSR length 275 m) beside the platform no. 3. **Tender Value:** ₹ 93,11,485.91; **EMD:** ₹ 1,86,200.00; **Date & Time of Closing of Tender:** 10.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs. for Sl. No. 1 to 3 each.; **Completion period for the Work :** 09 (Nine) months for Sl. No. 1 to 3 each. 1. Tender Documents and details are at **www.ireps.gov.in** The bidding is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. 2. As per Indian Railway Standard General Conditions of Contract 2022, cost of e-Tender Form is NIL. 3. **Date and Time of Opening Tender** is 10.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs.

SDAH-99/2026-27
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform all and whomsoever it may concern that my client is interested to purchase the below-mentioned schedule properties. Further, the schedule properties (Schedule A hereunder) bearing Survey Numbers **8/1, 8/6, 8/7, and 8/8** presently belong to **Mr. M. Muniraju S/o Muddayya,** residing at No. 213, Parvathapura Road, 11th Ward Number, Maralubagilu Beedi, Devanahalli Town, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District,
And similarly, the properties (Schedule B hereunder) bearing Survey Numbers **57/1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7** Guttahalli Village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru belongs to **Venugopal S/o Gundappa, K.Manju S/o Kariyappa,** both are residents of Guttahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural and **Survey Numbers 106/1,2,3,4 Survey Numbers 6/1, 2,** they are intending to alienate the schedule properties.
If any other person/s, financial institutions, banks, or authorities have any manner of right, title, interest, demand, claim, charge, tenancy, mortgage, gift, sale agreement, dispute, or any court injunction/order whatsoever over the below-mentioned schedule properties, they are hereby requested to file their objections to the Sale transaction of the aforesaid properties.
Such objections must be submitted in writing along with photocopies of the relevant supporting documents, either in person or through Registered Post / Speed Post to the undersigned advocate **within 7 days** from the date of publication of this notice.
If no valid claim or objection is received by the undersigned within the stipulated period, it shall be deemed and construed that the schedule properties are free from all encumbrances, and my client shall proceed with the registration process of the Absolute Sale Deed. Any claims or objections received after the expiry of the said period will not be considered or entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES
Schedule A
All that piece and parcel of agricultural lands bearing Survey Numbers: **8/1, 8/6, 8/7, and 8/8** situated at Guttahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, Total Extent: 3 Acre and 04 Guntas
Schedule B
All that piece and parcel of agricultural lands bearing Survey NumbersSy **No.57/1, 2,3,4,5,6 & 7** situated at Guttahalli village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru, totally measuring an extent of 2 acre 29 guntas.

Sd/- Vincent P.J., Advocate
No.18/2, Opposite Chaithanya PU college,Vidyaranyapura,Bengaluru-560097
Phone Number: 9986880501, 9996998555

Metro Railway, Kolkata

e-Tender is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway, Kolkata for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work: **Name of work:** Repair and rehabilitation Work at different buildings (Officer's Quarter, GM Bungalow, Staff Quarter etc.) of South Section of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Approx Cost of Work:** ₹3,41,80,634.41. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 6,83,600/-. **Completion Period:** 09 (Nine) Months, **Date and Time of Closing:** 21.07.2026 at 12:00 hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in.** Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be uploaded only on the website.
Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: Civil-2562-2026-Recall(Open)
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NEW DELHI- 110001
(An autonomous Institution of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)

CALL FOR ENTRIES

26th BHARAT RANG MAHOTSAV, 2027
(INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL OF INDIA)

National School of Drama invites proposals for participation in the 26th Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2027 -International Theatre Festival of India (World's Largest Theatre Festival) which will be held in New Delhi and other cities of the country and Abroad in January, 2027.

Applications are invited online only from interested Theatre Groups, Drama Institutions, Theatre Companies, and Theatre Directors from both India and abroad.

For detailed information and application form please visit NSD website www.nsd.gov.in. (Link will be activated w.e.f.. 27th June. 2026).

Last date of submission of application is 27th August, 2026.

Application Fee-
INR 250/- for India and SAARC countries
INR 500/- for others.
Enquiry: Phone: 01 1- 23073647,011- 230311 16
Website: www.nsd.gov.in

CBC 09130/11/0004/2627

Major arterial road renamed S M Krishna Road ahead of inauguration on Saturday

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has named the 10.7-km Major Arterial Road (MAR) connecting Mysuru Road and Magadi Road as S M Krishna Road, in honour of former chief minister SM Krishna.

The road will be inaugurated on June 27 on the occasion of Kempegowda Jayanti.

Passing through the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, the 10-lane signal-free corridor is expected to become a crucial link between West Bengaluru and South Bengaluru.

According to the BDA, the road is expected to reduce travel time between Magadi Road and Mysuru Road from around 60 minutes to 20 minutes.

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said the project symbolises both Kempegowda's vision for Bengaluru and Krishna's contribution to the city's development.

When new roads don't last long – the sinkhole incident on Major Arterial Road goes viral. CREDIT: X

"The BDA has honoured the dream of Kempegowda and the development vision of SM Krishna. The S M Krishna Road being inaugurated on Kempegowda Jayanthi will mark a new chapter in Bengaluru's development," he said.

Misleading video

Meanwhile, a video claiming that the newly developed MAR had developed sinkholes ahead of its inauguration has gone viral on social media, drawing criticism over the quality of civic infrastructure works.

The video shows multiple large sinkholes along a 20-metre stretch near Kadabagere.

However, BDA Commissioner P Manivannan clarified that the stretch seen in the video is not part of the main carriageway scheduled for inauguration, but a service road that remains under construction and is expected to be completed only by December 2026.

"The main carriageway is the one getting inaugurated and we have inspected it. However, the service road is still under construction and the contractor has not handed over the road to us. The service road will be complete only by December 2026," he told *DH*.

Manivannan said the video was shot earlier and that BDA officials had already identified the sinkholes and instructed the contractor to rectify them.

"Our officials, during regular inspections, have observed the sinkholes and written to the contractor to ensure they are fixed and quality is maintained. The road is still under the contractor and the BDA has not taken over it. Once the contractor completes the work and hands it over to us, we will take over only after checking the quality of work. It is not right to blame the BDA over the ongoing works that are still under the supervision of the contractor," he said.

The 10.76-km MAR is one of the BDA's flagship infrastructure projects and is expected to significantly ease traffic movement between Magadi Road and Mysuru Road.

n found dead in actress' cops suspect suicide

s close friend Thapanda

Vaishak K

He also texted her that he is going to end his life. Then Krishi alerted his family members and rushed to the flat only to find him hanging from the ceiling in the bedroom. However, the police have found no suicide note.

Based on a complaint by Vaishak's wife Meghana, Rajarajeshwari Nagar police have registered a case of unnatural death and investigations are on. The body was handed over to the family for final rites after the postmortem, the police said.

Vaishak had earlier been arrested by HAL police in connection with a case involving alleged threats to businessman Aravind Reddy and Krishi was also an accused in the case. Later, the duo were released on bail.

A senior police officer said that preliminary investigations revealed that Vaishak had reportedly been under mental distress following financial loss and things were not good with his family. He had shared this earlier with Krishi and often visited her house and he had a spare key. On Wednesday around 8 pm, he called Krishi and informed that he is not able to lead a normal life. However, police are yet to ascertain the exact reason which led him to take this extreme step.

When *DH* contacted the actor, she refused to comment over the incident and she told the police that she had gone to a naturopathy centre in Nelamangala for promotion and stayed there for a couple of days.

She was shocked when she received a call from Vaishak and his statement about him ending his life. She immediately came back and panicked after seeing his hanging body.

High drama at funeral

High drama unfolded during the funeral of Vaishakh at a crematorium in Chamarajanagar when Krishi arrived to pay her last respects.

Family members of the deceased objected to her presence and prevented her from viewing the mortal remains. She was forced to leave the venue. Krishi left the crematorium immediately.

Drop inflated, scandalous tender: R Ashoka on tunnel road

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP leaders, including R Ashoka on Thursday demanded cancellation of Bengaluru's proposed tunnel road project, taking objection to the 96% tender premium, 40 years of toll collection and the allotment of prime land parcel to the private concessionaire.

Terming the project as 'scandalous', they also questioned whether the 16.75-km project benefits the city or private operator.

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka called the tunnel road project a 'scam'. "The original project estimate prepared earlier was Rs 12,023 crore. But the negotiated bid sits at a mind-boggling Rs 22,000 crore which is nearly double the original cost," he said in a post on X.

He also questioned the 40 years of toll, saying Chief Minister D K Shivakumar is pushing for a higher concession value that will force citizens to pay a hefty toll. "As if the inflated cost wasn't enough, the private company is being given commercial development rights over five prime land parcels across the city to recover investments," he said.

Bengaluru Central MP P C Mohan questioned who really benefits from the project. "Bengaluru or Adani," he asked on X.

Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya, who has been vocal about his opposition to the project, has not reacted to the recent development yet.

According to sources, the proposal is currently awaiting approval of the state cabinet.

Mount Carmel College gets Deemed-To-Be University status

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Mount Carmel College (Autonomous) in Bengaluru has got the Deemed-To-Be University status.

Announced this during a news conference on Thursday, Sr Jose Lynette President of the Mount Carmel Educational Society said that the Deemed-To-Be University will help the institution to grow to new heights aligning with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

She said that the new status will strengthen institution's role in shaping future-ready graduates through innovation, research, and interdisciplinary learning.

She said the new status would significantly enhance the college's academic and research capabilities while providing greater autonomy to design programmes that meet emerging educational and industry requirements.

New possibilities

"The Deemed-to-be University status opens up new possibilities for academic innovation, research collaborations, and global partnerships. It will enable us to offer students a more dynamic and holistic learning experience while staying true to our core values of inclusivity, social responsibility, and excellence," she added.

The Institution has also got a land at Devanahalli with the plans to develop a residential campus in future as it has got the university status now.

Chalavadi urges CEC to stop SEC's parallel voter list revision

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy on Thursday urged Chief Electoral Officer Anbukumar to urgently intervene against the "parallel, unauthorised and conflicting SIR" by the State Election Commission (SEC).

Chalavadi Narayanaswamy

A delegation of BJP leaders led by Narayanaswamy visited the CEO's office and handed over the complaint.

The complaint objected to the SEC's plans to start its revision from June 26. Narayanaswamy noted that the back-to-back exercises (SEC's from June 26, ECI's from June 30) would create "severe panic and bewilderment" amongst voters. He added that it would lead to a "breakdown of transparency."

"Deploying different sets of field machinery, BLOs and administrative staff twice within the span of one week for the same households is an egregious waste of taxpayer money, government resources, and valuable administrative hours," the complaint said.

"Therefore, I urgently request the Election Commission of India to invoke its constitutional powers under Article 324 to intervene immediately, issue a stay or a directive to the State Election Commission of Karnataka, and command them to halt their separate, parallel SIR process for GBA wards," Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said in the complaint.

ct of cruelty against animal nish upon collective human science, says high court

Golden Retrievers and three Shih Tzu. The complaint was filed by PETA based on an oral allegation by a neighbour about ill-treatment to the dogs. The police took custody of the dogs and undertook an investigation.

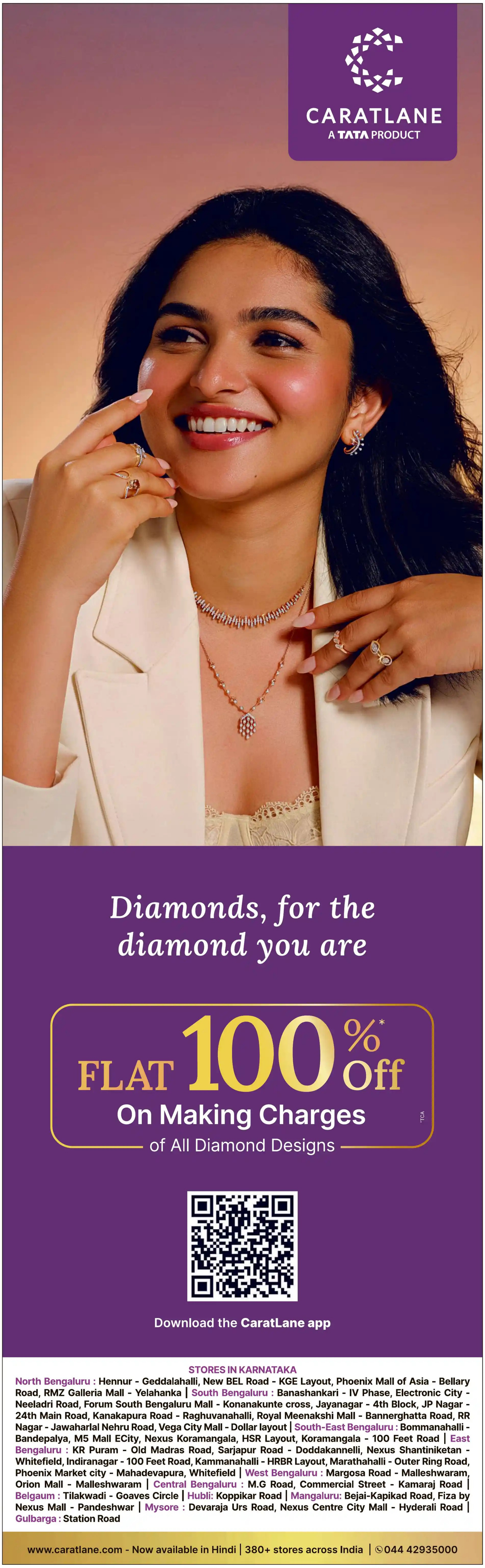
The Peenya police registered the FIR in March against K E Ramesh, the owner of the dogs.

The counsel for the petitioner PETA submitted that there is video footage showing the ill-treatment of the dogs.

"A perusal at the Magistrate court's order shocks the conscience of the court. The Magistrate appears to have lost sight of the fact that ethical treatment to the animals is imperative. What the screen shot depicts or video of which is also shown to the court depict that the owner of the dog has repeatedly beaten every dog and has treated those dogs like chattels that he can deal with as and how he wants. In the teeth of this video or the photographs it is ununderstandable as to how the concerned court could pass an order directing the dogs to be returned to the perpetrator of the crime," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

"Before I say Omega to this order, it would not be inept to refer that animals though bereft of human speech are not bereft of sentience, suffering or the capacity to experience pain. The law in its civilisational wisdom has long ceased to view animals as mere chattels existing solely for human utility, they are not. The law now recognises the animals also to be living beings entitled to dignity, compassion, protection from cruelty. The measure of a civilised society is often reflected not merely as to how it treats its fellow humans but as to how it extends mercy and justice to the voiceless creatures that inhabit its shared world," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

The court further said, "Therefore, every act of cruelty against an animal is not merely an injury to a sentient being, but a blemish upon the collective human conscience. Protection of animal life therefore is not an act of charity; it is an affirmation of constitutional morality and recognition that the arc of justice must extend even to those who cannot knock at the doors of this court by themselves."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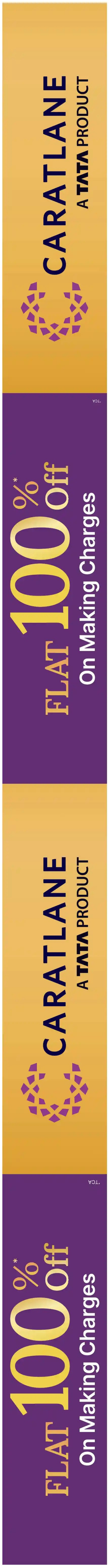

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Statewide pulse polio vaccination drive on June 28

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Health department on Thursday announced June 28 as the national immunization day for the administration of pulse polio oral vaccine for children under the age of five years, including newborn children.

The government is currently targeting 64,84,901 children across the state. In the previous year, 64,25,399 children were administered pulse polio vaccine. Each child will receive two drops of oral polio vaccine.

The department has set up 36,076 booths, 988 mobile teams to reach the hilly areas and 2,125 transit teams. About 1,14,213 vaccinators and 7,197 supervisors have also been appointed to facilitate pulse polio vaccination. Booths will also be set up in railway stations, metro stations, airports and seaports.

To help locate the nearest vaccination centres, the Health department has also launched a new mobile application called 'Nearby Vaccination', which can be downloaded from the Play Store.

In the next two-three days, followed by the immunization day, the workers will also visit door-to-door to cover all children. Special attention will be paid to the migrant population, high risk areas and urban slums.

Speaking at the announcement, U T Khader, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, said, "Due to cases in our neighboring countries, we have to take continued precautionary measures. We request all parents to get their children vaccinated."

Though children have been vaccinated in the previous year, it is still important that they are vaccinated again.

The Pulse Polio vaccine is given to eradicate the poliovirus and protect children below five years from poliomyelitis, a highly infectious disease that causes permanent muscle paralysis.

Linking rivers to help solve water disputes: Union minister

Compliments 3 states for co-operating to replace gates of Tungabhadra dam

VITTAL SHASTRI
MUNIRABAD (KOPPAL DIST), DHNS

Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil, on Thursday, held a meeting with Karnataka Chief Minster D K Shivakumar, Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu and Telangana CM Revanth Reddy, at the inauguration of new crest gates at the Tungabhadra dam.

All 33 gates have been replaced at a cost of Rs 51 crore, after gate number 19 was washed away due to the snapping of chain link in August 2024.

Much to the farmers' disappointment, the issue of constructing the Navali balancing reservoir to compensate for the over 30 tmcft of silt accumulated in the Tungabhadra dam did not come up at the meeting.

Showering praise on the chief ministers for showcasing unity to find a solution to the water dispute, he said the work on replacing the gates could be undertaken in just a few months due to their mutual cooperation and financial assistance.

Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil (second from left), Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, his Andhra Pradesh and Telangana counterparts N Chandrababu Naidu and A Revanth Reddy respectively, at the inauguration of the new crest gates at the Tungabhadra dam near Koppal on Thursday. PTI PHOTO

"Earlier, there were differences among the states over river water sharing. Now, they are not interested in fighting among themselves. They have agreed for talks to ensure water for all states," the minister said.

Highlighting several instances of northern states finding solutions to water disputes through river-linking projects, Patil said farmers could earn good revenue if drip and sprinkling irrigation methods were adopted.

"There is no scarcity of rainfall in the country, but it lacks proper planning in water utilisation. The river linking project between Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh aims to provide irrigation to over 10 lakh hectares. A similar project involving Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand targets providing drinking water and irrigation to Delhi, Haryana and Punjab. We are connecting the entire nation through water projects similar to linking road networks, as per the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

The union minister, like Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, emphasised the need for linking rivers.

"Everyone must agree to inter-linking of rivers between states after the success of linking of rivers within states," Naidu suggested.

Karnataka Water Resources Minister Ramalinga Reddy remained absent due to personal reasons.

Find last inter-state Revanth

Linking Godavari, Cauvery will help 4 states, says Naidu

HYDERABAD, DHNS:

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, on Thursday, appealed to Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil to find a permanent solution to the inter-state Tungabhadra river water-sharing dispute expeditiously.

His Andhra Pradesh counterpart N Chandrababu Naidu advocated linking the Godavari and Cauvery rivers to protect the interests of Karnataka, AP, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

They were addressing the gathering at the inauguration of 33 new crest gates of the Tungabhadra dam at Hosapete.

Reddy described the occasion as a 'Red Letter Day,' emphasising that the joint meeting of the three chief ministers and Patil represented a historic first step toward resolving the dispute amicably. He urged all political forces to rise above partisan considerations and prioritise welfare of farmers in the three states.

The Telangana chief minister stressed that the installation of new crest gates was not merely an infrastructural milestone, but a meaningful intervention that could ease the hardships of lakhs of farmers whose livelihoods depended on the river.

Reddy highlighted a pressing water allocation crisis affecting his state. Farmers in Gadwal, Alampur and Palamuru regions, served by the Rajolibanda diversion scheme, had been able to utilise only 5 to 6 tmcft of water out of the 17.9 tmcft allocated to them.

Nearly 10 tmcft of their entitled share remained unused due to silt accumulation and unresolved alloca-

High court cancels Vachanananda Swami's advance bail in Pocso case

BENGALURU, DHNS: The high court of Karnataka on Thursday cancelled the anticipatory bail granted to Vachanananda Swami in a Pocso case over allegations of sodomy.

Justice M Nagaprasanna noted that the trial court, while granting anticipatory bail, failed to issue notice to the victim, which is a mandatory requirement in bail matters arising out of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act cases and hence, the order granting anticipatory bail cannot be sustained.

However, the high court has continued the protection of anticipatory bail for further three weeks enabling Vachanananda Swami to seek regular bail in accordance with law.

Vachanananda Swami was booked for offences under sections 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 of the Pocso Act. The complainant in the case challenged the May 2 special court order granting anticipatory bail to Swami. It was submitted on behalf of the complainant that a 'blanket bail' has been granted to the accused without properly assessing the ingredients of the case.

The Swami is accused of inappropriate behaviour with a minor boy, who was staying in the free hostel run by Veerashaiva Lingayat Panchamasali Guru Peetha, in Harihar.

PAINT PASSION

Young men with their bodies painted pose for photographs during a 'Muharram' procession in Hubballi on Thursday. PTI PHOTO

Fight to ban RSS will continue, says KPCC chief Hariprasad

HUBBALLI, DHNS: State Congress president B K Hariprasad said on Thursday that they (Congress) had banned the RSS thrice in the country and that the fight to ban the organisation would continue.

B K Hariprasad

He told reporters here that the BJP had accused Congress' national president Mallikarjun Kharge of a land scandal to divert attention, after Home Minister Priyank Kharge took on the RSS. But the charges against the party president were far from the truth, Hariprasad said.

He alleged that there was a scandal in the acquisition of land for Chanakya University in Bengaluru and said that the then BJP government had purchased 106 acres of land from farmers at a cost of Rs 50 lakh per acre, for the varsity.

Hariprasad said the Congress did not oppose the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, but the party was was firm that no genuine voter should be excluded from the voters' list.

Textbooks named after India's rivers: NCERT on row over Kannada book

BENGALURU, DHNS

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has justified the contents in the R3 (Kannada) textbooks introduced for class 6 from this year for CBSE-affiliated schools, claiming that the textbooks have been named after rivers of India.

Following the objection raised by academicians from Karnataka for naming the Kannada textbooks after Krishna and promoting Sathvik food in the name of healthy diet, the Council in a statement released to media on Thursday stated that the name Krishna is after the Krishna River. "The Hindi textbooks are named as Ganga, English textbook as Cauvery and Urdu as Jamuna. Similarly, Kannada textbook is named as Krishna as it is one of the major rivers flowing in Karnataka," NCERT clarified.

On the allegation of promoting only Sathvik food, the Council said, "A balanced diet has been covered in Chapter 6 of the book, It is also covered under a separate heading, 'Balanced Diet' on page 63. The illustrative image given on page 63 includes both vegetarian and non-vegetarian food items."

It said nowhere in the textbook is vegetarianism explained or justified, nor is non-vegetarian food opposed.

It can be recalled that on June 24, *DH* published an article under the title 'Mythology-Heavy, NCERT book under fire.'

'Clarification false'

Notwithstanding the clarification, several writers, including the Kannada Development Authority (KDA), expressed displeasure over the textbook and demanded its withdrawal.

"We oppose the clarification given by NCERT also. It is just to mislead the public. The river we remember as soon as we say Karnataka is Cauvery. What is NCERT trying to teach about our rivers? The clarification itself is false," said KDA.

Another set of writers including J Ramakrishna, S G Siddaramaiah, K Marulasiddappa, Banjagere Jayaprakash demanded the withdrawal of the textbooks and alleged that they were restricted to preaching.

"Even in the Constitution Preamble, they have dropped the word secular and added the word Sarva Dharma Samman. Who gave NCERT the authority to rephrase the Constitution preamble," they questioned.

Ministers in ch for disaster

Chief Minister D K Shivakum in charge of districts to ov

G Parameshwara	Tu
K H Muniyappa	Be Vij
Ramalinga Reddy	Be
M B Patil	Vij
K J George	Shi Da
Krishna Byre Gowda	Be
Eshwar Khandre	Bi
Satish Jarkiholi	Be
Priyank Kharge	Ka
Dr Sharan Prakash Patil	Ra
U T Khader	Ud an
B S Suresha (Byrathi)	Ko
Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah	MM

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Principal secy on leave, engg seat matrix to be delayed further

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Even a week after the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) resumed the counselling process for professional courses by allowing option entry with the available draft seat matrix, there is no communication from the government about the final seat matrix for engineering courses.

As per schedule, KEA is planning to announce mock seat allotment on July 6 and it is possible only if it gets the final seat matrix.

According to sources in the higher education department, senior bureaucrat Tulasi Maddineni, who was recently appointed principal secretary to the department, is on leave till June 30. Apparently she has not handed over charge to anyone.

As informed by sources, in the absence of the principal secretary, it is not possible to get the final seat matrix approved by the minister concerned. The higher education portfolio is currently with Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and the seat matrix has to be approved by the him.

Not just undergraduate (UG) engineering, KEA is waiting for seat matrix of architecture courses and MTech courses too.

"The higher education department has to also send details of surrendered seats in private engineering colleges and universities, which we will add to the pool of engineering seats," said an official source from KEA.

As shared by KEA officials, seat matrixes of both UG engineering and MTech are important.

"We planned separate counseling for MTech courses to avoid inconvenience to students as private colleges and universities admit students under private quota seats fast and commence classes," sources said.

KEA authorities said if the final seat matrix is delayed more, counselling will be delayed further.

"This year, the government announced that it will conduct counselling without waiting for NEET results. But now, it looks like by the time we receive the seat matrix, NEET results will be out," the sources said.

HDK reminds CM about his letter on Bidadi discussion

BENGALURU, DHNS: Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy has reminded Chief Minister D K Shivakumar about the letter he had written on June 22, requesting to change the date and venue to discuss the Bidadi Township issue.

Sharing his tour plan with the CM, Kumaraswamy informed that he will be in Byramangala on June 27 to interact with farmers and also requested Shivakumar to be present in person along with officials of Greater Bengaluru Authority and listen to grievances of affected farmers.

"Having the discussion in the presence of affected farmers will help find alternatives on the spot," he said in the letter. Kumaraswamy even said he was sending a reminder letter as he had not got any reply from the CM to his earlier letter.

Centre okays market intervention scheme for Totapuri mangoes

Market intervention price fixed at Rs 1,175 per quintal

NEW DELHI, DHNS:

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has approved the procurement of Totapuri variety mangoes from Karnataka under the Marketing Intervention Scheme (MIS) for the 2026-27 marketing season, providing much-needed relief to growers hit by a sharp price crash.

According to the approval, the scheme will cover 1.3 lakh tonnes of mangoes — equivalent to 25% of the estimated production of 5.2 lakh metric tonnes in the state. The Market Intervention Price (MIP) has been fixed at Rs 1,175 per quintal.

In a letter to the Karnataka government, the ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare outlined the implementation details under the Price Deficiency Payment mechanism.

"The maximum differential payment between the MIP and the actual sale price will be capped at 25% of the MIP. Farmers availing the benefit must sell their produce in notified APMC mandis in Karnataka. The price deficiency payment scheme will be implemented for one month from the date of the first transaction following the issuance of the letter. Losses incurred during the implementation of the scheme will be shared equally between the central and Karnataka governments on a 50:50 basis," the letter said.

The decision of the ministry of agriculture follows an appeal by Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy, who called on Chouhan and highlighted the plight of mango growers suffering due to the price crash in the state.

Kumaraswamy urged the Centre to intervene through MIS to ensure remunerative prices for farmers.

Growers of totapuri mangoes in the state, especially Kolar district, have been hit by a sharp crash in prices.

Govt cancels pensions of 91,152 ineligible beneficiaries

BENGALURU, DHNS: The government has cancelled pensions to 91,152 ineligible beneficiaries who had submitted false or forged documents for age verification at the time of sanction.

Also, pensions to over 16.42 lakh beneficiaries under various social security schemes were temporarily suspended after a statewide verification exercise flagged their records for discrepancies - failing to produce supporting documents during verification, not residing at addresses provided in official records or not submitting income certificates.

According to the joint director of the revenue department, a preliminary scrutiny of pension records found details of 23.13 lakh beneficiaries to be "suspicious," out of the 83.11 lakh people currently receiving pensions in state.

Officials said pension benefits would be restored immediately to eligible ones after scrutiny of the documents

The verification is being undertaken through the 'Sanyojane' mobile app to ensure transparency and prevent misuse of welfare schemes. The deputy commissioners and tahsildars have been asked to issue notices to these beneficiaries, giving them a 30-day window to furnish documents proving their eligibility.

Officials said pension benefits would be restored immediately to eligible ones after scrutiny of the documents.

The government said pensions up to May 2026 had been disbursed to 63.04 lakh eligible beneficiaries, including 3.35 lakh people whose eligibility was confirmed through field inspections conducted by village administration officers (VAOs).

Govt admits Rs 115-cr transfer to dead Gruha Lakshmi beneficiaries

CAG audit had flagged irregularities of Rs 225 crore

BENGALURU, DHNS

Facing scrutiny over Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) observations on the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, the Women and Child Development (WCD) department on Thursday defended the flagship programme while admitting that Rs 115 crore had been transferred to the accounts of 1,08,755 deceased beneficiaries because their deaths were not reported in time.

The CAG audit of the scheme flagged alleged financial irregularities to the tune of Rs 225 crore. In a detailed clarification responding to media reports on the audit findings, the department rejected suggestions of large-scale irregularities and asserted that several verification mechanisms were in place to ensure only eligible women received the monthly Rs 2,000 assistance.

Of the 1.30 crore registered beneficiaries, 2.88 lakh had died, and families of 1,03,922 deceased beneficiaries had re-registered their households by changing the ration card headship. However, payments continued to be credited in other cases until deaths were reflected in official records. So far, only Rs 15.24 crore of the Rs 115 crore has been recovered. The department is working with banks to recover the funds.

Also, data from the e-Janma and Kutumba platforms is verified before every payment cycle to exclude deceased beneficiaries. Anganwadi workers and Panchayat Development Officers have been directed to immediately report beneficiary deaths to Child Development Project Officers for system updates.

The department also said 1.94 lakh beneficiaries who were income-tax payers or GST returns filers were excluded. Before each monthly payment, beneficiary data is cross-verified through APIs provided by the Income Tax and Commercial Taxes departments via the Kutumba platform, and ineligible beneficiaries are excluded.

Responding to concerns over multiple beneficiaries sharing bank accounts, the department said payments are made through the Aadhaar Based Payment System and that common accounts largely involved legitimate joint accounts of eligible family members. Cases showing multiple accounts or missing bank details were attributed to Aadhaar-linked account changes by beneficiaries or technical and narration errors by banks.

The clarification issued by director of the WCD department also maintained that beneficiaries appearing against multiple bank accounts did not indicate duplicate benefits, as Aadhaar-linked accounts may change over time, and no beneficiary receives more than one payment in a month.

TUSKER TRAIL

Wild jumbos in a playful mood at Mutyalamaduvu forest in Anekal taluk of Bengaluru urban district on Thursday.

BJP committee prepares interim report on cross-voting

BENGALURU, DHNS

The three-member fact-finding committee of the BJP has prepared its interim report on the cross-voting fiasco during the June 18 MLC elections.

However, it's not clear when the final report will be submitted.

The committee comprising MLC C T Ravi, BJP State Vice-President N Mahesh and Hubli-Dharward Central MLA Mahesh Tenginkai was formed on June 19 to find out the 'truth' about the incident which has caused severe embarrassment to the saffron party.

The committee was asked to provide its report by June 25.

Of the 11 cross votes, it's clear that at least three were from the BJP and four from the JD(S).

However, it's yet to be ascertained whether the four BJP MLAs assigned to JD(S) cross-voted or not.

According to sources, the three BJP leaders are said to have met on June 23 and finalised an interim report.

Speaking to *DH*, N Mahesh said: "We have prepared an interim report and given it to C T Ravi. He will hand it over to the state president (B Y Vijayendra) once he returns to Bengaluru."

The committee is said to have taken into cognisance other facts in the public domain, such as the claim by former chief minister D V Sadananda Gowda that there were meetings between Congress and BJP leaders before the voting on June 18.

Ashoka seeks SIT probe into 'flaws' in Rs 2K dole scheme

Alleges role of big gang of officials, politicians

BENGALURU, DHNS

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka on Thursday urged the state government to form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to look into "irregularities" to the tune of Rs 225 crore (as stated by the CAG) while implementing the Gruha Lakshmi scheme.

Speaking at a press conference, Ashoka said: "Despite the CAG report clearly mentioning a Rs 225-crore scam, the government has taken no action. Payments were made to fake accounts, and a big gang of officials and politicians is behind it. Was the Revenue Department sleeping while money was being paid in the names of dead people?"

Stating that the government had failed to prevent payment being made in the names of dead people, the LoP charged that the software was deliberately designed to enable a "loot" in the names of the dead.

"This is the biggest cyber crime, and an SIT must be formed to investigate it. It has been found that 2.11 lakh beneficiaries are dead. Data of another 77,000 people is yet to be traced. Already Rs 5,000 crore have been swallowed, and now another scam has surfaced..."

Defends Vijayendra on cross-voting fiasco

When asked about talks that he and BJP State President B Y Vijayendra could be replaced as a result of the cross-voting fiasco, Ashoka said: "That's (resignation) your illusion, won't answer all that. We went to Delhi (and spoke). They asked us to strengthen the organisation, and said they will investigate and take action."

Ashoka and Vijayendra were among the state leaders who held discussions with BJP National President Nitin Nabin about the cross-voting incident.

When asked about former CM DV Sadananda Gowda's claims that some Congress and BJP leaders had held meetings in Bengaluru's Prestige Apartment, he said: "I don't know. I asked Sadananda Gowda to give names. He said he doesn't know the names."

Congress launches drive against paper leaks 'Chhatron Ki Goonj'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Congress on Thursday launched a 40-day nationwide campaign - 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' demanding the resignation of the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and a complete overhaul of the examination system in the country.

Congress MP Varsha Gaikwad, while addressing a press meet in Bengaluru said, the movement, running from June 25 to August 9, will cover 28 cities in as many states.

"This isn't just about a paper leak. It reflects the failure of the entire education and the examination system. It is not the students who are failing, but the Education ministry."

Gaikwad said the campaign follows concerns raised by Rahul Gandhi on the education system.

The Youth Congress and NSUI members will meet students, distribute pamphlets, and gather grievances to be submitted to the Ministry and the Prime Minister.

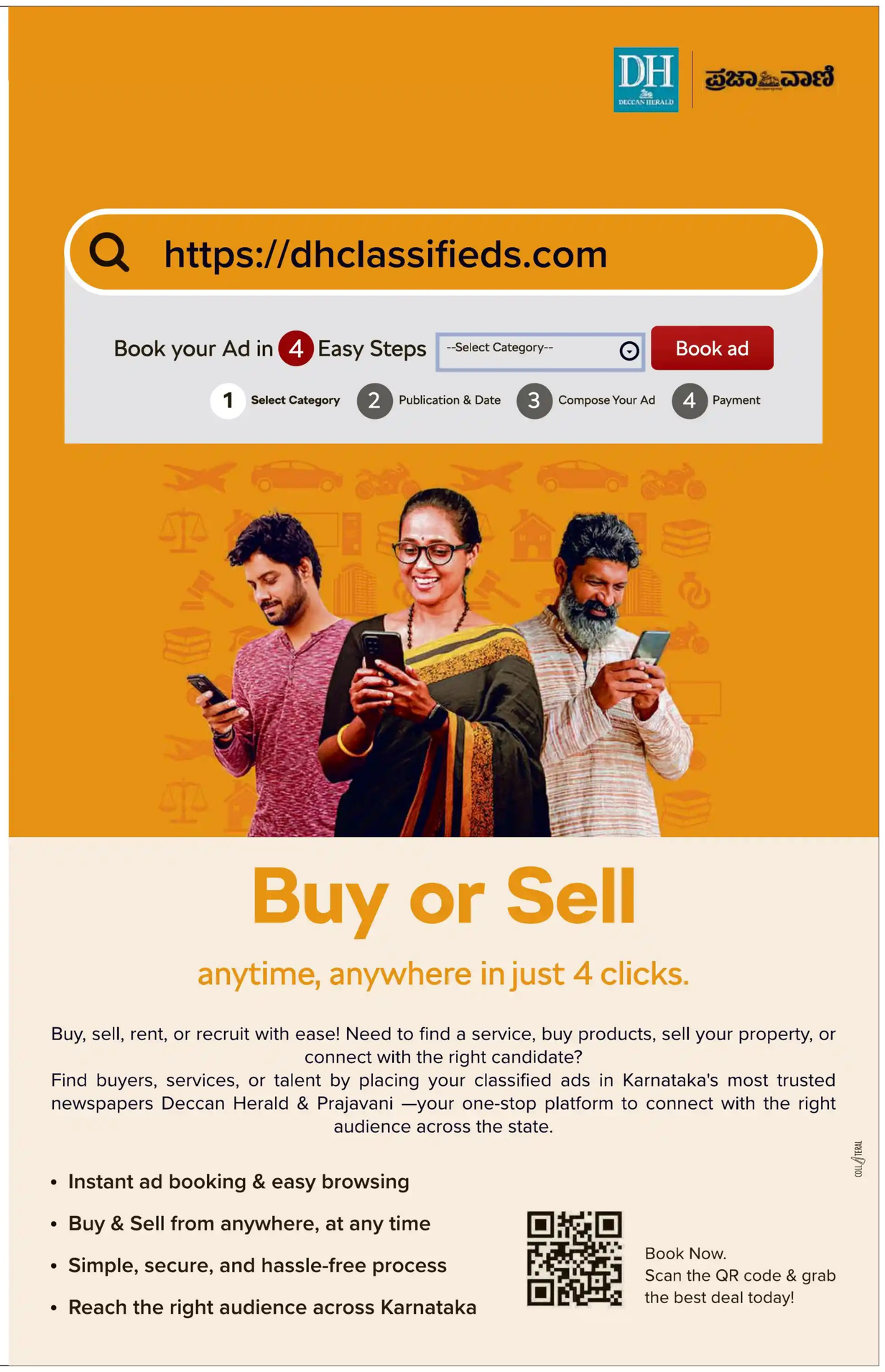
The movement will culminate with a students' 'Satyagraha' on August 1 and a 'Chalo Delhi' march on August 9.

She also demanded a comprehensive calendar of events specifying exam dates, results, and job provisions, with better coordination between clearing exams and placements.

89 cases in 10 years

Citing media reports, Gaikwad said 89 suspected paper leak cases had surfaced in the last 10 years, affecting 6.55 crore candidates.

"As many as 48 re-exams were held, and 22 of them were cancelled. Also large-scale leak reported in 64 major exams since 2019, excluding NEET and UGC, across 19 states. In government recruitment, 27 of 45 exams were cancelled. In Gujarat, 11 papers leaked over 11 years with 201 accused."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S T Somashekhar.

Somashekhar says Shobha responsible for BJP's woes

BENGALURU, DHNS: Expelled BJP MLA from Yeshwanthpur S T Somashekhar on Thursday claimed that Union Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje was responsible for the dissidence and cross-voting within the BJP.

Speaking to reporters, he said: "Shobha is responsible for all these problems in the BJP. Shobha madam neither likes R Ashoka nor Vijayendra. She is responsible for targeting them and creating chaos in the BJP. She is the one who is responsible for maligning Ashoka and Vijayendra." Incidentally, Somashekhar (then in the Congress) had unsuccessfully contested against Shobha from the Yeshwanthpur constituency in 2008.

The Yeshwanthpur MLA noted that BJP leaders had not asked him and Shivaram Hebbar (another expelled MLA from the BJP) to vote for the saffron party.

"The chief minister called us, said he would give grants to our constituency, has given grants, I have voted and am saying openly. If they have the capacity, let them find out (who cross voted)."

Vijayendra to visit Dharmasthala

BJP state president B Y Vijayendra, who had proposed to hold BJP Legislature Party (BLP) meeting in Dharmasthala, has decided to go to the temple town on his own. He is scheduled to arrive at Dharmasthala on Friday morning.

Even as Vijayendra is travelling alone, speculation is rife whether the visit has anything to do with the cross-voting fiasco during the June 18 MLC elections.

Speaking to reporters during a press conference, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka stated that the plan to have a BLP meeting in Dharmasthala had been cancelled.

Centre under spotlight over enforcement of fly ash utilisation

Fly ash products manufacturers question lack of monitoring

Fly ash has been flagged as a major health hazard due to the presence of toxic heavy metals like lead, mercury and radioactive elements.

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

About 25 years after issuing a notification for utilisation of fly ash produced by Thermal Power Plants, the Centre has come under spotlight due to questions raised over inconsistencies in the rules and poor enforcement.

Fly ash is a fine powdery substance produced by the burning of coal. Besides the air pollution, it has been flagged as a major health hazard due to the toxic heavy metals like lead, mercury and radioactive elements. The Ministry of Environment and Forests had issued a notification in September 1999 to mandate the use of fly ash to check pollution.

There are 555 thermal plants in the country, including 19 in Karnataka. As per the data provided by the ministry, as many as 438 units in the country generate total fly ash of about 3,000 to 3,500 lakh tonnes every year. In fact, the ministry had stated that data regarding fly ash generation was not available for many plants.

Lack of monitoring

The Association of Fly Ash Products Manufacturers has, however, questioned the lack of a monitoring system 25 years since the issuing of the notification.

The ministry has since issued other notifications with the one dated December 31, 2021, mandating 100% use of fly ash. Noting that the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is not a peripheral authority but the apex body vested with statutory powers and obligations, the association questioned the lack of an independent verification mechanism to ensure fly ash utilisation.

"In the absence of such verification, thermal power plants are left to self-report their utilisation figures, many of which claim 100% utilisation without any independent scrutiny. This has resulted in false and misleading regulatory narrative, where on paper, complete utilisation is claimed," the association said in an affidavit filed before the National Green Tribunal.

It said many plants continue to dump ash into ash ponds or store it in slurry form.

"There is no indication of any real-time monitoring system, no verification protocol, no centralised database correlating ash generation with actual utilisation, and no penal framework for non-compliance. As a result, the entire system has degenerated into a self-certification regime, where compliance is merely claimed and not verified," the association said, adding that the central board can't shift its responsibility to the states.

A bench of Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava, and expert members A Senthil Vel and Afroz Ahmad has issued notices to the Centre and all the state governments seeking their response.

Shivanasamudra: New DCF report says no to mini hydel project

BENGALURU, DHNS

A year after *DH* reported how a senior officer in the Forest Department overruled objections by a field officer to facilitate a hydel project in elephant habitat, a third round of inspection of the proposed site of construction has upheld the original red flags about the project affecting the wildlife, including elephant movement.

Balaji Cauvery Power Private Limited submitted a proposal in 2023 seeking "re-diversion" of a part of the land leased to Pioneer Power Corporation Limited for 20 years in 2005. The land is located in Sattegala, upstream of the Shivanasamudra Falls, under the MM Hills Wildlife Division. The company sought to set up a 24.75 MW mini hydel project.

In a report dated October 16, 2024, the then deputy conservator of forests (DCF) B Santosh Kumar said he inspected the area and found that elephants roam freely in the area.

He expressed concern that allowing the project would lead to conflict with elephants, which account for about 65% of all the wildlife conflict incidents. The officer, however, was soon transferred.

A senior officer overruled the report and sought a relook at the project. In March 2025, Y Chakrapani, who replaced Kumar, gave another report that removed the objection.

Sources said the proposal was put on hold after the media reported on the incident. The department had asked the DCF to verify the proposal and provide specific remarks.

Bhaskar B, who took charge of DCF in July 2025, gave yet another report in March 2026. The third report said the project should be rejected.

The DCF noted that the location was part of the ecologically sensitive zone and a deemed forest. The dry deciduous forest along the river Cauvery was a moderately to steeply sloped area. Elephant, spotted deer, wild boar, Indian Grey Mongoose and monitor lizard were among the wild animals present in the area.

"Though the proposed location does not fall within the notified elephant corridor, it is an important habitat for the elephants. Any fresh construction activity would adversely affect the existing delicate man-animal conflict situation. Therefore, I endorse and reiterate the report already submitted on 16-10-2024 from this office," the third report said.

JOURNEY THROUGH JUNGLE

The picturesque Western Ghats provide the perfect backdrop as trains move in and out of the Karwar station. The surroundings have just got greener with the arrival of the monsoon. PHOTO COURTESY/ROHAN KUDALKAR

High Court disposes of PIL seeking SOP for safety of zoo staff

BENGALURU, DHNS

The high court on Wednesday disposed of a PIL concerning the safety of zoo staff, noting the Central Zoo Authority's submission that a committee has been formed to formulate an SOP.

The petition was filed by Bhuvan, a conservationist as well herpetologist, presently a resident of Cambridge in United Kingdom, and his mother B Pudhpalatha, a resident of Mangaluru in Dakshina Kannada.

The petitioner cited 17 incidents involving grievous injuries and fatalities of zoo personnel, as reported in the media. The petitioners submitted that there are no specific safety protocols, risk assessment mechanisms, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) governing the entry of zoo personnel into animal enclosures for feeding, treatment, maintenance, and other operational duties.

The petitioner had filed an RTI application with the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) seeking certified copies of safety protocols, risk assessments, and SOPs governing entry of zoo personnel into animal enclosures. In April 2026, the CZA replied stating that no safety protocol document, risk assessment, or SOP for staff/veterinary personnel/zookeepers entering animal enclosures had been issued. It further stated that the staff are directed to refer to the general guidelines for grant of approval by the CZA for establishment of new zoos under section 38H(1A) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act.

The counsel representing CZA placed an office order of May 5, 2026, setting out the constitution of the expert committee and terms of reference. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice K S Hemalekha disposed of the PIL considering this submission that steps have already taken steps for protocol and SOP.

At this stage, the counsel for the petitioners submitted that the expert committee may be directed to look into the 17 incidents mentioned in the representation submitted to CZA. The bench observed that the incidents cited by the petitioners also depict lack of common sense on the part of the personnel entering the animal enclosures.

"You (in one of the incidents) get into the tiger enclosure. It is common sense and you don't need a protocol not to enter into a tiger enclosure. How can one restrain the animal?" the bench orally said. The bench further reiterated that proper protocol and SOPs are necessary to prevent fatal attacks by wild animals.

Half of state reeling under water crisis, govt braces for drought

Drought, From Page 1

"Permission for drilling borewells for drinking water purposes should be granted expeditiously. There should be no delay in this matter. If necessary, officials should work in coordination with the department of rural development and panchayat raj (RDPR)," Parameshara said.

On Wednesday, RDPR minister Eshwar Khandre said Karnataka was facing a 42% rainfall deficit and asked citizens to use water judiciously.

"The expected rainfall was 145 mm. So far, the state has received only 83 mm," Khandre said, adding that groundwater levels were falling across the state.

Revenue Secretary (disaster management) Manoj Kumar Meena told Parameshwara that 2026 was the worst compared with the last six years in terms of rainfall. "We're better than 2023, when rainfall was less, but worse than all other years," he said.

"If the sea surface temperature increases by 0.5°Celsius continuously for three months, it means El Niño has started," Meena said. "This year, the increase may go beyond 2°Celsius, making it one of the strongest El Niños in history."

Parameshwara was told that the 'Super' El Niño, or 'Godzilla' El Niño, has come after 1877.

Excise dept an organised ring...

Excise dept, From Page 1

Further, ED detected a unique money laundering modus operandi where most of the officers in the department obtained liquor licences in the names of their family members and entities controlled by family members and are illegally running liquor businesses. They projected the income generated from these businesses as legitimate.

During the searches, ED officials recovered incriminating evidence in the form of digital devices, a bribe distribution cash book, property documents, etc. They also recovered Rs 5.5 crore in cash, Rs 7.8 crore in gold jewellery and foreign currency worth Rs 3.3 lakh from the premises of Manjunath, his driver, family members and other associates and officials.

The ED launched the searches based on an FIR by the Karnataka Lokayukta police against senior officers and officials of the Karnataka Excise Department on the allegation of "collecting illegal gratification for processing or issuing various excise licences".

The information collected from the FIR was further bolstered by various verifiable complaints and documents received by the ED regarding money laundering activities done by the accused public servants through acquisition of immovable and movable properties, benami transactions and investment in businesses, the agency alleged.

DKS sets 6-month deadline to fill 72,000 vacancies

Vacancies, from Page 1

It is imminent for the government to hire, given that 86,398 of its employees are set to retire over the next five years. But recruitment also means higher expenditure on salaries and pensions. In the 2026-27 fiscal, the government is expected to incur an expenditure of Rs 1.32 lakh crore on salaries and pensions. This is a 38% increase from Rs 96,166 crore the government spent to pay salaries and pensions in 2023-24.

By 2029-30, expenditure on salaries and pensions is projected to rise to Rs 1.65 lakh crore.

Detention of areca-laden lorries: Team to meet Maha CM, Joshi

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS

A file photo of arecanut being dried.

A meeting of the Karnataka State Areca Cooperative Societies Federation Limited held here on Wednesday decided to send a delegation to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi to request them for steps to release over 50 arecanut-laden lorries from Karnataka that had been detained by the food safety and drug administration officials in Maharashtra.

The meeting also decided to create awareness among traders and growers against adding artificial colours to arecanut.

The meeting was chaired by Thirthahalli MLA Araga Jnanendra, the president of the Federation. The date of the visit will be announced soon.

Earlier, speaking at a press conference, the MLA expressed concern over the lorries being detained in Maharashtra.

Officials in Maharashtra have detained arecanut laced with chogar, saying it is is chemically mixed, and mechanically peeled arecanut as substandard second-grade arecanut and sent them to laboratories for testing. The federation said this was an unreasonable action.

Further, the federation called upon the Maharashtra CM to not unnecessarily stop the lorries transporting arecanut legally on national highways there and to release the currently blocked lorries unconditionally.

Commercial LPG supplies restored as West Asia crisis eases

LPG, From Page 1

To protect household supplies, the government had prioritised domestic consumers, halted commercial supplies, and directed refineries to divert C3 and C4 hydrocarbon streams exclusively for LPG production.

This had adversely impacted the petrochemical output of companies like Reliance Industries.

With the supply situation normalising, the government has now decided to reduce the diversion of C3/C4 streams to the LPG pool. However, it will ensure that domestic LPG production remains above 40,000 tonnes per day.

The Centre for High Technology has been tasked with allocating the enhanced C3/C4 streams to petrochemical and other critical sectors.

The ministry reiterated that uninterrupted LPG supply to households continues to be the top priority. It has asked oil marketing companies (OMCs) to maintain a comprehensive database of commercial and industrial consumers for better planning.

The government also reiterated its push to shift commercial and bulk consumers to piped natural gas (PNG), the statement said.

COMING OF AGE

Hubballi girl misses World Junior shooting gold by whisker

NATARAJ KATTI
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Aishwarya Balehosur, a promising shooter from Hubballi, missed out on a ISSF World Junior 50M Pistol individual gold medal by a whisker at Shul, Germany on Thursday. Aishwarya finished joint top with Sofiia Smetankina, a Russian who competes under AIN (individual neutral athletes), after the end of the sixth and final round with a creditable score of 540. But she missed out on gold with one less inner 10-ring shot.

The 18-year-old Hubballi girl got off to a solid start, scoring 90 in the first round. She continued her good run with two 90-plus scores. She was leading the race to the ISSF World glory till the fifth round. But, in the last round, she managed a below par score of 87, finishing joint top with Sofiia.

The Russian shooter, however, clinched the gold by virtue of one better shot of the inner 10-ring. Sofiia's 12 shots found the inner 10-ring target while Aishwarya managed 11.

Ariunzaya Amarbayasgalan of Mongolia bagged the bronze medal. Aishwarya's compatriots Parshina Gupta, Sanskriti Bana and Sejal Kamble finished 4th, 8th and 13th, respectively.

India topped the medal tally with seven gold medals, eight silver and 10 bronze.

Aishwarya, who turned 18 last February, inherited interest and skills in shooting from her father Ravichandra Balehosur, a shooter represented Services in nationals. Ravichandra, who along with his brother Shivananda runs a shooting academy in Hubballi, nurtured his daughter's interest and talent in the sport. Soon, she made waves in sub-junior state and national events.

Aishwarya Balehosur (left) proudly flaunts her silver medal she won at ISSF World Junior Shooting Championship held at Suhl, Germany, on Thursday. Gold medalist Sofiia Smetankina, a neutral athlete (AIN), and Ariunzaya Amarbayasgalan of Mongolia, the bronze medal winner, are seen during the presentation.

"Aishwarya has made the state and the country proud with her achievement at the World Junior Shooting championship, where she came up with her personal best score of 540. Good to see, her hours of training, work ethics and discipline is paying off. Hope she continues her good run and realises her dream of an Olympic medal," a beaming Ravichandra shares his joy with *DH*.

In 2023, barely 15, Aishwarya made people sit up and take notice of her shooting skills at senior nationals in Bhopal, where she bagged a gold medal in 50 M air pistol event.

Earlier, this year, she won bronze medal in national senior shooting championship in free pistol 50 m with a score of 532 at Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in Delhi. Aishwarya followed it up with a good showing in qualification events, which earned her a place in the Indian team for ISSF World Junior Championship in Germany.

Aishwarya has her sights set on an Olympic quota. She is training under watchful eyes of former Olympian Jitu Rai. She hopes to earn the quota for the LA Games with good performances in ISSF events and selection trials.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast June 26: Rainfall to occur at few places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	26.2	21.4	4.5
Bidar	32.5	22.6	0.4
Vijayapura	34	22	00
Dharwad	25.4	21.4	2.6
Haveri	27.4	22.6	21.6
Kalaburagi	35.2	23	1.8
Raichur	36	24	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	30.1	23.5	24.2
Karwar	29.4	24.3	27.6
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	30.6	24	18.7

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	26.2	22.1	13
Bengaluru	30.4	20.8	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	30.9	22.3	0.4
Davangere	30	20.3	08
Hassan	NA	NA	NA
Mysuru	30	20	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	31.6	20.4	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	39.3	25.2	2.2
Kolkata	32.8	28.6	00
Mumbai	27.7	24.5	13.4
Chennai	36.7	29.1	00
Pune	29.7	23.4	4.7
Hyderabad	32.4	24.2	00
Th'puram	33.4	25.6	00

5-yr-old dies in lioness attack in Gujarat; fifth case in a month

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

FORESTS & FEAR

- Villagers sought stronger protection measures
- The angry family members and villagers refuses to accept the body. The forest officials assured that safety measures would be in place soon
- Officials say kids and elderly people remain the most vulnerable groups

In yet another incident of human-lion conflict, a five-year-old boy was killed in a lioness attack on Wednesday night in a village in Amreli district, taking the number of such fatalities in the region to five in a month.

With the rise in fatal attacks, villagers have sought stronger protection measures against the big cats, which have increasingly been venturing into revenue areas amid growing lion population.

According to forest officials, five-year-old Gian Devkumbhai Prathu was walking back home with his grandfather when a lioness attacked him from behind in Chaturi village of Khambha taluka of Amreli. Officials said the grandfather, "became so nervous at the site that he collapsed".

The lioness dragged the boy into a nearby patch of dense vegetation. As news of the attack spread, a group of villagers started to chase the lioness. Sources said the villagers made desperate but unsuccessful attempts to rescue the boy as the lions remained aggressive.

"There were already four to five big cats — including two lionesses, an adult and two sub-adults. The boy had died already due to multiple injuries," forest officials said.

The incident occurred sometime between 8-8.30 pm.

The angry family members and villagers refused to accept the body. The forest officials assured that more safety measures would be in place soon.

Similar incidents were reported from Savarkundla, Rajula and Jafrabad in the district in the past four weeks.

When asked about the rising cases of such attacks, Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCP) Vikas Yadav told *DH*, "These incidents are certainly concerning, but we can't establish a common link between them. There can be several reasons behind such attacks, including carelessness, roaming around in the night outside the village periphery and a lack of awareness, especially among migrant workers who are unfamiliar with lion habitats and behaviour. However, children and elderly people remain the most vulnerable groups."

Yadav said the department has been doing everything it can to prevent such incidents.

"We regularly patrol the vulnerable areas and conduct awareness programmes to educate people about safety measures. There is no shortage of staff, but we must acknowledge the challenges of human-lion coexistence. Over the years, both the lion and human populations have increased, while space has remained largely unchanged," he added.

Army colonel, major & 40 personnel booked in J&K police station attack case

Cops allege armed entry, assault & vandalism; Army orders joint probe

SRINAGAR, DHNS

CHAIN OF EVENTS

- An army-linked vehicle was seized by a transport official in Kishtwar
- Subsequently, Army officials reached the police station with iron rods, service weapons, and forcibly entered the premises
- FIR says police officials were assaulted, SHO's uniform torn, and government property damaged

The Jammu and Kashmir Police have booked a colonel, a major, and nearly 40 other Army personnel on charges including attempt to murder after an alleged attack on a police station in the Kishtwar district, prompting the Army to order a joint investigation and promise full cooperation.

An FIR lodged at the Atholi Police Station in the remote Paddar area names Colonel N Arun Gandhi, Commanding Officer of 17 Rashtriya Rifles, besides Major Vikas Sharma, Naib Subedar Shankar Gurkhe, and 30-40 unidentified Army personnel. However, no arrest had been reported till Thursday evening.

According to the FIR, the incident was preceded by an assistant regional transport officer (ARTO) in Kishtwar seizing a vehicle linked to the Army.

The FIR alleged that a large group of Army personnel subsequently reached the police station armed with sticks, iron rods, and service weapons, scaled the main gate and boundary wall, and forcibly entered the premises.

At the time, Atholi Station House Officer (SHO) Amrit Katoch was attending an official function chaired by the deputy commissioner of Kishtwar.

The FIR stated that he rushed back after receiving information about trouble at the police station, where he was assaulted. The police have alleged that his uniform was torn during the assault.

The complaint further alleged that Atholi Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Vijay Kumar Bhagat was also assaulted. Several policemen were injured in the incident, according to the FIR.

The police have also alleged that the ARTO and his personal security officers were assaulted, and that official vehicles belonging to the ARTO, SDPO, and SHO were vandalised.

The main gate of the police station and other government property were also allegedly damaged.

The FIR accused the Army personnel of forcibly entering the police station with the intention of causing serious harm to policemen on duty.

The allegations contained in the FIR have not been independently verified.

In a statement, the Army said the matter was under examination through appropriate institutional mechanisms, and that it would extend full cooperation to the legal process. It added that appropriate action would be taken based on the outcome of the joint investigation.

The incident is among the most serious publicly reported confrontations between the Army and the J&K Police in recent years.

Kashmir probes premature apple fruit fall amid growers' concerns

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

An orchard during the harvesting season, in Budgam district of central Kashmir. PTI FILE

An unusual spell of premature fruit fall in Kashmir's apple orchards has triggered a government probe into what may be affecting a crop that fills fruit baskets across the country.

The Jammu and Kashmir government has constituted an expert committee to ascertain the causes behind the fruit fall after orchardists reported immature apples dropping from trees weeks before the harvest season.

Samples from affected orchards have been collected and sent for laboratory analysis, officials said.

Agriculture Minister Javid Ahmad Dar has directed horticulture and agriculture officials to conduct a detailed assessment, identify the extent of the damage and submit recommendations for remedial action.

The reports have emerged from villages in Shopian, one of Kashmir's most important apple-growing districts.

Some growers have linked the fruit drop to recent spray applications, though officials and scientists have cautioned against drawing conclusions until laboratory tests are completed. "We have ordered a scientific assessment to determine the exact reasons behind the fruit fall and to ensure that growers receive timely guidance," Dar said while reviewing reports from the affected areas.

The issue has drawn attention because Kashmir is India's largest apple-producing region, accounting for the bulk of the country's domestic apple output.

The horticulture sector is estimated to support around 35 lakh people directly and indirectly through farming, transportation, packaging, storage and trade, while the apple economy is valued at nearly Rs 12,000 crore annually.

Every year, Kashmiri apples travel thousands of km to wholesale markets and retail stores across the country.

Any significant disruption to the crop is therefore closely watched not only by growers and traders in the Valley but also by stakeholders across the fruit supply chain.

Officials said the expert panel would examine multiple possible causes, including weather stress, fungal infections, nutrient deficiencies, physiological disorders and the potential impact of agrochemicals.

Notices have reportedly been issued to manufacturers and distributors of products used in some of the affected orchards pending the outcome of the investigation.

The episode comes amid growing concerns over the vulnerability of Himalayan horticulture to erratic weather conditions.

Orchardists across Kashmir have faced repeated challenges in recent years, including unseasonal rainfall, hailstorms, prolonged dry spells and changing disease patterns.

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No. 16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
Email: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in

No: KERC/F-34/Vol-38/2026-27/2200 Date: 25.06.2026

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Sub: Public hearing on Draft Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Distributed Solar Photovoltaic (DSPV) Plants) Regulations, 2026.

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission has issued a draft Regulations on the above subject which is notified in the State Gazette on 04.06.2026 and is also available on KERC website viz **https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in.**

The Commission will hold a public hearing in the matter on **Tuesday, the 07.07.2026 at 03:00 PM in the Court Hall of the Commission at first floor, 16C-1, Miller Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagar, Bengaluru.**

Interested persons are requested to attend the public hearing and submit their views/comments/suggestions, before the Commission.

Sd/- Secretary
For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission

DIPR/CP/YC1346/2026-27

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (MPED&Transport), BCCC, Ground Floor, Annex Building-2, GBA HO Premises, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002

No.: EE(B.M&T)/E-AUCTION/01/2026-27 Date: 24.06.2026

E-AUCTION SALE NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer (B.M&Transport), Bengaluru, Central City Corporation (BCCC), invites sale of Scrap Vehicles, parked at GBA Head Office, Bengaluru, as shown in the Annexure-1 will be conducted way of E-Auction sale. The highest rates received in the E-Auction will be considered for acceptance.

E-Auction Schedule

(1) Availability of Tender Document: **25.06.2026 onwards. (2)** Inspection of Scrap Vehicles: **Upto 30.06.2026 (during Office Hours). (3)** The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) **Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh only)** for all vehicles. **(4)** Last date to confirm participation for e-auction: **02.07.2026 up to 4;30 p.m. (5)** Live auction bidding date & time: **04.07.2026 (Starting at 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.).** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Building Maintenance & Transport), Bengaluru Central City Corporation

THE MYSORE PAPER MILLS LIMITED
Paper Town, BHADRAVATI-577 302, KARNATAKA.
CIN: L99999KA1936SGC000173 (03.06.2014)
Cell No.: +91-9448218706 / +91-9632451730
E-mail: dirforestsmpm@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING Short Term e-TENDERS for cutting, debarking, collection, stacking, transportation and delivery of 10000 MT of debarked Eucalyptus/Euca Pellita and 10000 MT Acacia Hyb., (Total 20000 MT) pulpwood from MPM Captive plantations to the buyer's destination points.

Short Term e-Tender No. E-Portal NO. MPML/2026-27/SE0051 dtd. 23.06.2026 **Last date & time for Bid submission :** 01.07.2026 at 5.30 PM

Tenders are invited from MPM Registered Forest Contractors & others (those who register their names by furnishing required documents before submission of tender) Tenderers shall submit tenders only through e-Procurement portal of Government of Karnataka: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Cost of document: As per e-portal norms. Blank tender documents downloaded from e-procurement portal/MPM website http//mpm.Karnataka.gov.in Any changes/ amendments to this tender will be published in the e-procurement portal only.

Sd/- Director (Forest) I/c

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/119/06/432

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation
Division Office, Smart City Bus Stand, Davanagere - 577 002. Website: dcdvg@ksrtc.org

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕರಾಸಾ/ದಾವಿ/ಸಂಚಾರ/ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ/870/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.06.2026

E-Tender Announcement No.32/2026-27 (Through KPP Portal)

In order to issue a single license for the total area of the total area of the Shopping Mall area at the newly constructed Smart City Davanagere Bus Station under the jurisdiction of the K.S.R.T.C, Davanagere Division for a period of 10 years (05% per annum with increase in license fee) "As is where basis" e-Tender applications are invited through KPP Portal for grant of single agency licensee.

The e-Tender documents can be downloaded from the KPP Portal website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and from the Corporation website: ksrtc.karnataka.gov.in **from 25.06.2026 onwards. Last date for applying 14.07.2026 upto 17:00 hrs.**

Sl. No.	Bus Station Name	Stall Name	Area in Sq.Ft.	License Period	Minimum License Fee (Amt. in Rs.)
1	Davanagere	Shopping Mall Area	1,30,862.37	10 years	41,15,250/-

For Contact Phone Number in Office hours: Divisional Traffic Officer, Mobile: 77609 90452, 70220 30183.

Sd/- Divisional Controller
K.S.R.T.C, Davanagere Division.

DIPR/CP/1357/MAA/26-27

KALABURAGI MAHANAGARA PALIKE KALABURAGI
E-mail : itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com

No. KMP/HS/EOI/ /2026-27 Date : 25-06-2026

:: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ::

Name of work: **Expression of Interest (EOI) for Rate Fixations for Non-Million Plus Cities (NMPC) fund Works in Kalaburagi Mahanagar Palike 2026-27**
Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike Kalaburagi/Kalaburagi Municipal Corporation (KMP/KMC) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) through E-portal website of Government of Karnataka: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ with Proposed Concepts from reputed Agencies with proven Track Record for fixations of rates for various items as specified in tender documents.
Indent No:
1) Last date and time for queries date : **02-07-2026, Timing : 11.30 am,** 2) Last date and time for receipt of tenders date : **03-07-2026, Timing : 04.30 pm**, 3) Date and time for opening of financial bid date : **06-07-2026, Timing : 04.35 pm**
Assistant Executive Engineer (Env) Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike Kalaburagi can be contacted (Mobile No: 9480555999) for 'Site visit' with prior intimation. Renowned Agencies with proven Track record in implementing similar projects can download the 'Expression of Interest (EOI) Document from E-portal website of Government of Karnataka : **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**
The filled in 'Expression of Interest' Document should be uploaded on KPPP-Portal Website of Government of Karnataka : **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (SWM)
Kalaburagi Mahanagar Palike, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/259/KSMC&A/2026-27

HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
District Health and Family Welfare Office, Tumakuru.
Phone : 0816 - 2278387, E-mail : dhotumkur@gmail.com

No. : D.H.T./V.S./01/2026-27 Date : 24-06-2026

INVITATION OF TENDER

The Tender Schedule is as follows under the E-procurement System.

Details : 1) Start Date to Submission of Tender : 24-06-2026, 2) Last Date for Submission of Tender : 08-07-2026 at 5.30 p.m., 3) Opening of Tender Technical Bid : 13-07-2026 at 3.00 p.m. 4) Tender Opening Authority : District Health & Family Welfare Officer, Tumkur, 5) EMD Value : 1,44,000/-, Tender Value : 72.00 Lakhs.

For more information Contact No. : 94498 43064.

Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Tumkur.

DIPR/Tumakuru/46/Manipal/2026-27

MSIL Mysore Sales International Limited
(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Chit Fund Division, MSIL House, No. 36, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru- 560 052. Phone : 080-22264021-25
e-mail: msil.chitfund@msilonline.com

No: MSIL/CF/02/2026-27/Call-4 Dated: 25.06.2026

SHORT-TERM E-TENDER
(through e-portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Proposals are invited from eligible Chartered Accountant Firms for appointment **to Provide Financial Review and Accounting Services for Chit Fund Division for a period of One Year.** Detailed Tender document containing scope of work, eligibility criteria, and terms & conditions can be downloaded from e-portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Manual applications shall not be accepted.
The last date for submission of proposals is **04.07.2026 before 3:30 P.M.** The Company reserves the right to amend or modify the eligibility criteria as deemed fit to suit its requirement.

Sd/-
CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CHIT FUND)

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti-584 115, Raichur Dist., Karnataka State, Tele: (08537) 275022
CIN No.U85110KA1947SGC001321

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

The Hutti Gold Mines requires **Medical Officers** on Contract Basis, for its 120 bedded hospital situated at HUTTI, Raichur District(Karnataka).

1	**Medical Officers**	:	**3 Posts**
	Qualification	:	**MBBS**
	Consolidated Salary	:	**Rs.75,000/- Per Month**

Walk-in-interview will be conducted **on 11.07.2026** during working hours **between 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m** at the Company's Administrative Office at Hutti–584 115. At the time of Interview, the candidates are required to submit their Resume and produce original documents of their academic qualification, experience, caste etc. along with a set of photo copies of the above documents and passport size photographs.

Sd/-Executive Director.

"LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA"

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Senior Assistant Director (Education), N.R. Circle, Bangalore

ಸಂ : ಪ.ನ.ಪಾ.ಹಿ.ಸ.ನಿ.(ಶಿ)/ಪಿ.ಆರ್/356/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 24.06.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Subject: Short-term Tenders have been invited for the purchase of shoes and socks required for kindergarten to pre-university colleges in Bengaluru West City Corporation for the academic year 2026-27.
With reference to the above subject, short-term tender has been invited to quote the rates on present market value for procuring and distributing essential shoes and socks from reputed suppliers/ outlets to students studying in the 28-kindergarten, 05-primary, 10-High schools and 05-pre-university colleges under the Bengaluru West City Corporation for the academic year 2026-27. The details are as follows:
1) Details of materials to be purchased : **Shoes and socks, 2)** Details of sections to be purchased : **From kingergarten to pre-university colleges. 3)** Total No. of students studying: **8184, 4)** Number of materials required : **For each student.**
Terms and conditions:
1) Submit the rates and specifications for total number of essential materials for students studying in 28-kindergarten, 05-primary, 10-High schools and 05-pre-university colleges under the Corporation
2) The rates quoted inclusive of GST.
3) The last date for submitting tender is **04.07.2026 upto 5.00 P M**
4) The rate quotation will be opened on **06.07.2026 at 11.00 AM.** Interested persons can participate.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director (Education), BWCC

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 0836–2741277, 0836–2748374
ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 0836-2741277, E-mail ID:dsdharwad@gmail.com
ಕ್ರ:ಜಿಆಧಾ/ಎ.ಆರ್.ಎಸ್/01/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 22–06–2026

ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ : 2026–2027 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಯಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ 17 ನಾನ್–ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್ ಸೇವೆಗಳ ಹುದ್ದೆಗೆ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುವ ಕುರಿತು.

2026–2027 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಯಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ 17 ನಾನ್– ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್ ಸೇವೆಗಳ ಹುದ್ದೆಗೆ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಹ ಮತ್ತು ಆಸಕ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999–2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದ್ವೀ–ಬಿಡ್ (Technical and Financial) ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Tender Value **58.55** lakh

(1) ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **22–06–2026** ರಿಂದ **29–06–2026** ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ (2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ್ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **30–06–2026** ರಂದು 5.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ (3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **02–07–2026** ರಂದು 12.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ

ಟೆಂಡರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಎಲ್ಲ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ದಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಅಥವಾ ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಚೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು,
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೩/ಧಾ/361/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Zone-01) Meyo Hall, Public Utility Building, 17th Floor, MG Road, Bangalore-560001

No: SADH(Zone-1)TENDER/61/2026-27 Date: 22.06.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(SHORT TERM) (SINGLE COVER AND TWO COVER SYSTEM)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture Zone-01, (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies/Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour department for Maintenance of Parks.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.09 Hoysala Nagara Central. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 3802000.00, EMD : Rs. 76,040.00.**
2.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.12 Kasthuri Nagara. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 2440000.00, EMD : Rs. 48,800.00.**
3.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.13, Krishnaiahna Palya. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 1303000.00, EMD : Rs. 32,575.00.**
4.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.15, Indiranagara. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 1800000.00, EMD : Rs. 45,000.00.**
5.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.16 New Thippasandra. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 1200000.00, EMD : Rs. 30,000.00.**
6.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.17, Kaggadasapura. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 178000.00, EMD : Rs. 4,450.00.**
7.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.19, Jeevanbhima Nagara. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 2405000.00, EMD : Rs. 48,100.00.**
8.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.20, Kodihalli. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 2164000.00, EMD : Rs. 43,280.00.**
9.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.22, Dommaluru. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 5830000.00, EMD : Rs. 1,16,600.00.**
10.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.23, Jogupalya. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 2475000.00, EMD : Rs. 49,500.00.**
11.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.25 Ashok Nagara. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 3198000.00, EMD : Rs. 63,960.00.**
12.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.27, Ambedkar Nagara. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 93000.00, EMD : Rs. 2,325.00.**
13.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.28, Neelasandra. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 1000000.00, EMD : Rs. 25,000.00.**
14.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.29 Austin Town. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 1920000.00, EMD : Rs. 48,000.00.**
15.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.31, Shanthi Nagara. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 1200000.00, EMD : Rs. 30,000.00.**

Calendar of Events : (1) Date of Notification : **22.06.2026 (2)** Tender can be downloaded from : **25.06.2026 (3)** Pre bid Meeting : **29.06.2026 at 11.30 AM (4)** Tender Closing Date : **06.07.2026 at 4.30 PM (5)** Technical bid opening date : **08.07.2026 at 11.30 PM (6)** Financially bid opening date : After Approval of Technical bid.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Zone-01), BCCC

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A test of integrity and transparency

With the preliminary report of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) reportedly confirming irregularities in the management of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the temple's functioning has come under the scanner. The temple's administrators – the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust – face a tough task explaining the alleged embezzlement involving jewellery and crores of rupees. After the charges became public, ornaments and cash valued at about Rs 2 crore have been reportedly recovered. The final report of the three-member SIT, set up by the Uttar Pradesh government, is expected to reveal the real scale of the misappropriation.

The disclosures carry significant political implications because the Ram Temple has been integral to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s ideological and electoral narratives, with its construction framed by leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as an act of nation-building. The temple has since been elevated beyond a religious institution into a symbol of national pride. Allegations of financial misappropriation and administrative lapses, therefore, risk tarnishing not only the temple's management but also those politically associated with it. With Uttar Pradesh heading into Assembly elections next year, the controversy is particularly uncomfortable for the ruling party. While Opposition leaders have accused the establishment of shielding the culprits, the BJP has dismissed the allegations as an attempt to defame the temple and hurt religious sentiments. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has urged devotees to await the SIT's findings.

Charges of financial misappropriation at the Ram Temple make independent oversight imperative

Yet questions have been raised about the credibility and scope of the ongoing inquiry. Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Akhilesh Yadav questioned the rationale of an SIT investigation in the absence of a First Information Report (FIR). On Thursday, two days after the preliminary report, an FIR was registered against eight people in connection with the allegations. The concerns are compounded by the composition of the investigation team. The SIT is headed by Lucknow Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant. Its preliminary report was submitted to Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Sanjay Prasad, who also serves as the state government's *ex officio* representative on the temple trust. This official structuring of the probe has invited allegations of a conflict of interest. The charges call for a credible and independent investigation that must lead to a full public disclosure of the temple's accounts. Built through donations from the devotees, the temple owes its supporters complete transparency. The issue extends far beyond allegations of theft or administrative lapses. It concerns the integrity, accountability, and sanctity of one of the country's most revered religious institutions.

Expendable lives, preventable deaths

The deaths of two workers at a Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB)-owned sewage treatment plant (STP) in Varthur demand accountability beyond the contractor's negligence. While the police have booked the contractor, Va Tech Wabag Ltd, BWSSB officers responsible for ensuring that mandatory safety protocols were followed at a facility under their control cannot be allowed to go scot-free. The circumstances of their deaths are shocking. Brijesh Kumar, 27, slipped while standing on steps inside a wet well. His supervisor, Agilan Mohan, 30, was attempting to secure him by holding onto his belt. When Kumar fell, Mohan was dragged in too. Preliminary investigations have revealed that mandatory protocols, including basic safeguards such as body harnesses designed precisely to prevent such incidents, were bypassed.

These are not isolated incidents. At least 15 workers have died in similar accidents in apartment complexes and commercial establishments across Karnataka over the past decade, apart from numerous fatalities during manual sewer and manhole cleaning. Consistent with the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, the Supreme Court has repeatedly held that human entry into such systems should occur only in exceptional circumstances and under stringent safeguards, including protective gear, gas detection equipment, ventilation systems, harnesses, and rescue mechanisms. The persistence of such deaths also reflects a deeper social injustice. According to the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis, the overwhelming majority of those engaged in hazardous sanitation work belong to the Scheduled Castes, highlighting how caste and occupational risk remain closely intertwined. Data tabled by the Union government in the Lok Sabha reveal that 622 sanitation workers died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks across India between 2017 and 2025. Equally disturbing is the disclosure that the families of 52 victims received no compensation.

Deaths during sanitation work call for accountability at every level, not just among contractors

The recurring loss of life is not the result of a lack of technology but of a systemic preference for cheap human labour over safe mechanised alternatives. Robotic cleaning systems and other technologies are available and manufactured in India. The barrier is enforcement. Contractors who ignore safety norms must face prosecution, but so too must officers who fail to ensure compliance. Until mechanisation replaces hazardous manual work and accountability becomes certain, such deaths will continue. No civilised society can treat the life of a sanitation worker as expendable, nor accept that the lives of those drawn overwhelmingly from historically marginalised communities are somehow less worthy of protection.

BEYOND RETRIBUTION

How systemic neglect enables custodial torture

Legal impunity and desensitised policing demand reform that is not limited to individual convictions

MRUDULA VANANGAMUDI AND EDGAR KAISER

On this June 26, 'International Day in Support of Victims of Torture', human rights defenders in India will have a renewed sense of commemoration as the nine cops accused in the Sathankulam custodial death, a case that shook the conscience of the country, were convicted and sentenced to death by a trial court in Tamil Nadu. While the trial court called it "rarest of the rare" – ironically invoking judicial execution as a deterrent to extra-judicial execution – despite data indicating that 76% of custodial deaths result from torture, it is imperative to contemplate the existing systemic causes for torture in India.

Studies reveal that a significant number of police personnel believe violence is a "necessary" and smart way to solve crimes. These are not attitudes of 'rarest of rare' individuals but institutionally internalised violence. But even beyond the police force, violence justified as discipline is not only normalised, but also glorified in our culture. More than 65% of police personnel noted that public pressure to deal with suspects "with a heavy hand" influences their attitude, reflecting a deeper cause for violent policing. Public celebrations of encounter killings encourage officers to be "*singham*"s rather than upholders of the rule of law. In the face of heinous crimes, the public sentiment prioritises virtue signaling through a cathartic performance of violence, almost like a ritual cleansing – scapegoating someone in the process – refusing to take collective ownership for the conditions that produce such crimes.

Moreover, extrajudicial killings are justified on the grounds of self-defence. Arguably, policing duties would be difficult to perform because the work inherently entails the risk of dealing with violent people. While force could be used in rare circumstances, it should follow international legal standards consolidated into the Minnesota Protocol (2016) that aim to regulate such use on three core principles: necessity, proportionality, and accountability.

Without transparent processes, it is difficult to trust that every use of force is reviewed fairly in a disinterested inquiry. We only have the police's words regarding the question of necessity or proportionality, and they are all certainly bound by brotherhood, which makes even the registration of the first information report (FIR) against cops involved in torture cases a Sisyphean task.

In the absence of a specific anti-torture law, there has been a disappointing translation of the constitutionally guaranteed procedural safeguards into the judiciary's action. For instance, although the statute requires custodial deaths to be inquired into specifically by the judicial magistrates rather than the police or the executive magistrate, it is possible to flout this procedural safeguard in practice without much consequence (unless someone has the

wherewithal to approach constitutional courts), revealing a systemic paradox of allowing the law enforcement agents to enforce the rule of law against themselves.

This inherent conflict of interest is embedded in the law by mandating sanctions for prosecuting public officials. Even then, courts must largely rely on police investigations, giving the institution accused of abuse significant control over the evidence. One must approach the constitutional courts for independent investigation, which, firstly, is inaccessible to many, as rarely does the judiciary invoke its constitutional conscience to interfere in police investigations and pass necessary directions in the interest of justice; and secondly, not always practical, as the time taken may dilute evidence.

However, the judiciary quietly abdicates its responsibility to effectively check the regular, smaller abuses or misuse of police powers. This inaction allows the abuse to inevitably become rampant with impunity, only for the judiciary to react with extreme force when public outcry occurs. Ironically, this mirrors the police tendency to take the law into their own hands when executing marginalised men accused of heinous sexual crimes, in the face of public reaction.

This only reveals the subjective mandate of the "rarest of the rare" standard for the death penalty. One could argue that it is as arbitrary as police extra-judicial killings or custodial torture, for what judges are horrified by may vary with a lot of factors – class, caste, gender, life experiences of the concerned judge, public scrutiny, etc. – which may distort reason. K Balagopal argues in his work *Of Capital and Other Punishments*: "imperfect societies (and institutions) have no right to impose harsh punishments".

The forgotten rights of police personnel

Police torture does not operate in a vacuum. Common Cause's 2019 report offers a glimpse into the working conditions of police personnel that may contribute to their desensitisation – meagre resources, infrastructure, capacities, and rigid hierarchies that enable unwarranted interference from seniors or politicians into their professional autonomy. The National Police Commission in 1979 reported that the constabulary are trained to be "automatons" for mechanical compliance and not ethical reasoning, despite having to deal with situations demanding discretion and judgment and ethical reasoning.

Furthermore, Indian police work an average of 14 hours a day, and 50% of them lack a weekly day off due to staff shortages, which curtails bonding time with family or friends. Moreover, as government servants, there are especially officers manning the lower rung of the institution, who are restricted from organising to demand better working conditions or have institutional redress for their collective grievance.

Thus, marginalised people become outlets for the pent-up frustration, rage, and unarticulated grief for the life that is denied to them. The salary they receive does no justice to the duties or physical and mental costs imposed on the police, and power fails to compensate for the loss of one's humanity. Dehumanisation propels further dehumanisation. Incidents such as the Sathankulam custodial deaths are never "rarest of the rare"; they are systemic. On this important day, we ought to remember that harsh punishments cannot supplant systemic reforms.

(Mrudula is a human rights lawyer with the Alternative Law Forum; Edgar is a human rights lawyer with People's Watch, Madurai, and works primarily on custodial torture, extrajudicial killings, forced eviction, and Dalit rights)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Ubiquitous red letter boxes

To my surprise, the snail mail persists in the UK braving the tech storm

K SHAJIL KUMAR

During my recent visit to the United Kingdom, what struck me on the very first day was the presence of letterboxes on street corners.

I stood by to take a closer look at one of them near my lodgings and realised that it was a functioning one with a neat coat of paint and clearance timings distinctly written on it. It had a regal appearance with an ornate top when compared with India's bowler-hat-top post boxes.

Pre-internet, they were the foot soldiers who kept the wheels of communication, both official and personal, running. They were the broadbands of that era. From the central business districts of metro cities to the far-flung hinterlands, they stood steadfastly braving harsh summers and winters.

Royal Mail has a 500-year-old history dating back to King Henry VIII, and in India it is a legacy of the British Raj, established in 1854. However, Royal Mail recently got privatised and is currently owned by a Czech billionaire, Daniel Křetínský.

The coming of the internet and mobile phones pushed them to the margins, and in India these letter boxes soon started gathering rust and disappeared unceremoniously.

Hence, it was quite a surprise for me to see a functioning letter box in the UK.

During my subsequent days of stay in the UK, I came across the gleaming red 'Royal Mail' vans, many of them electric, in various parts of London and other towns I visited. All this gave me the impression that despite the internet and mobile phone, the good old 'snail mail' was still not a 'has-been' in the UK, and it whetted my curiosity.

Later on, I also noticed that all houses invariably had a letter box plate on the front door to receive letters. I also saw a pile of letters lying on tables near the house entrances — mainly official communications from the NHS and power supply companies.

During my conversations with my hosts, I learned that much of the official correspondence continues to happen through letters.

So, I surmised that it is the official correspondence that was keeping the Royal Mail afloat.

But a surprise awaited me at a Tesco outlet near my lodging. There was a section for greeting cards, which almost reminded me of 1980s and 1990s India, when such a display of greeting cards was the norm at all book shops and fancy stores.

The cards ranged from festival greetings for Christmas and Easter to personal ones like birthday, wedding or even job promotion ones.

Though the sale of cards may not be anywhere close to the pre-internet and mobile phone days, it was encouraging to know that there still exists a market for such cards and people value sending and receiving cards with handwritten messages scrawled in them, something totally forgotten in India.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ram Temple trust must come clean

Apropos 'Ram Temple trust withholds financial details, cites SIT investigation' (Jun 25), the trust's refusal to disclose key financial information, amid serious allegations of misappropriation of devotee contributions, seems unusual. The reluctance, and the recent negative audit findings of multi-level flaws in its accounting and record-keeping, only strengthen suspicion of wrongdoing. When the trust claims that 'nothing noteworthy' was discovered in its regular audits and that its finances were transparent, what prevents it from putting such information in the public domain? Why is it silent on devotees' claims of non-receipt of acknowledgement for their offerings of gold and silver? It should have done so proactively, as many temples do. Millions of *Rambhakts* have contributed to the temple's construction through a long-running national movement. More than any other legal obligation, the Trust owes total openness about its affairs to them.
Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

Invest in villages

This refers to the article 'A dividend India must not squander' (Jun 25). As the article rightly points out, the dividend is set to decline as the birth rates are declining. With the prevailing TFR at 1.5-1.9 levels, India will witness a stable or even declining population in the not-so-distant future. Adding to this is an increasing rural-to-urban migration, increasing the pressure on an already weak urban infrastructure. Investing in rural infrastructure is important to ensure all-round development and equitable wealth distribution.
M V Sridhara, Mysuru

Fix the textbooks

The alarming presence of over 1,600 errors in Odisha's newly revised textbooks shows a deplorable lack of seriousness on the part of the agencies and authorities (Errors without owners: A textbook case, Jun 24). The government must immediately replace these defective textbooks with error-free editions.
Fateh Najamuddin, Chennai

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

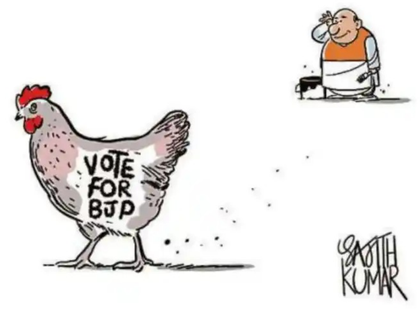
SPEAK OUT

Karunanidhi always kept alliances safe. But if partners leave on their own, I cannot say anything. Today, people are saying that alliances are not needed at all. We will definitely consider that.
M K Stalin, DMK chief and former TN CM

Life's tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late.
Benjamin Franklin

TO BE PRECISE

Eggs off Bengal mid-day meals



IN PERSPECTIVE

A rewrite for the Tenth Schedule

The law must be revised to ensure greater legislator autonomy and fair adjudication of defection disputes

KUMAR KARTIKEYA

India's anti-defection law was enacted with a simple promise of political stability. Four decades after the Tenth Schedule was inserted into the Constitution, that promise remains a distant dream. Governments continue to rise and fall through engineered resignations, strategic mergers, and carefully choreographed political realignments. At the same time, the law has produced an unintended consequence that receives far less attention: the steady erosion of legislative independence and intra-party democracy.

The Tenth Schedule was introduced in 1985 against the backdrop of rampant political defections that destabilised elected governments. It was aimed to preserve electoral mandates and prevent legislators from changing political allegiance for office or advantage. Few constitutional reforms have enjoyed such broad public legitimacy at inception.

The debate on defections resurfaces every few years, with familiar legal questions. Has a valid split occurred? Does the legislative party represent the real political party? Can the Speaker delay a disqualification decision? Yet these recurring disputes often distract from a more fundamental question: What exactly is the anti-defection law meant to protect?

While the law successfully disciplines individual legislators, it has repeatedly failed to prevent large-scale political defections. An individual member who votes according to conscience may face disqualification, while a sufficiently large faction can frequently negotiate its survival through mergers, procedural manoeuvres, or prolonged litigation.

The result is a constitutional framework that simultaneously restricts democratic expression and fails to eliminate political instability. Perhaps the most significant consequence has been the transformation of political parties into highly centralised structures. In reality, elected representatives are expected to exercise independent judgment, participate in legislative debate, and represent the interests of their constituents. In practice, legislators are bound almost entirely by party instructions.

The whip, originally conceived as a mechanism to ensure governmental stability on critical votes, now extends far beyond questions of confidence and supply. Members are routinely directed on legislative matters of every description. The consequence is predictable. Debate survives, but dissent becomes institutionally dangerous. A Parliament or Legislative Assembly functions best when elected representatives possess the freedom to persuade, disagree, and negotiate. Excessive party control weakens legislative deliberation by shifting power away from elected chambers and towards party leadership structures operating outside them.

This concern is not merely theoretical. Mature parliamentary democracies permit significantly greater space for internal disagreement. Legislators occasionally vote against their party's position without triggering constitutional consequences. Political accountability is ultimately enforced by voters rather than through immediate disqualification. India's experience has moved in the opposite direction. The assumption underlying the Tenth Schedule appears to be that elected representatives cannot be trusted with political judgment. Yet the same law has done little to prevent the very practices it was designed to eliminate. Political actors have adapted. Resignations are timed strategically. Disqualification proceedings are delayed. Legislative majorities are reconfigured before constitutional institutions can respond.

The adjudicatory mechanism has aggravated the problem. Disqualification petitions continue to be decided by Speakers and Chairpersons who are themselves political actors.

Stability with accountability

A constitutional mechanism intended to preserve democratic legitimacy cannot depend upon adjudication viewed through a partisan lens. Reform, therefore, must proceed on two fronts.

First, disqualification for violating a party whip should be confined to votes that directly determine a government's survival, such as no-confidence motions, money bills, and other matters explicitly linked to governmental stability. On ordinary legislation, elected representatives should enjoy greater freedom to vote according to their judgment and constituency interests.

Second, adjudication must be removed from the Speaker's office. The Speaker occupies a constitutional position, but remains a political actor. Disqualification disputes should instead be entrusted to an independent constitutional tribunal. Stability remains an important democratic value. But stability achieved through the suppression of legislative autonomy carries democratic costs. The challenge is to design a framework that preserves both stability and accountability.

India must confront an uncomfortable reality. The anti-defection law has neither eliminated defections nor strengthened representative democracy. What began as a safeguard against political opportunism now risks becoming an instrument of excessive political control. A constitutional provision designed to protect democracy should not diminish it.

The question is no longer whether the law requires reform. The question is whether the present framework remains capable of serving the democratic purpose for which it was created.

(The writer is an advocate in the Supreme Court of India)

The political economy of children's manufactured choices in urban India

NEELATPHAL CHANDA

A few weeks ago, I took my daughter, who is not yet three years old, to a shopping mall in Bengaluru. She was extremely excited, and she could identify a familiar cartoon character on a packet of snacks and other select grocery items. As a parent, her presence of mind amused me, but deeper questions intrigued me about the evolving manufactured choices shaped by market forces.

The characters that appear on supermarket shelves are present in audio-visual content; they appear prominently in advertisements, food packaging, and other digital content. What appears to be a child's preference is a systemic-exposure-curation designed to attain attraction both inside and outside. Inside the home, children encounter algorithm-driven entertainment through platforms such as online children's channels, gaming applications, and digital advertising. Outside the home, they move through carefully designed commercial environments filled with toy stores, food courts, branded characters, ice-cream kiosks, snack promotions, and child-centric marketing displays.

My daughter's experience is not unique; it offers a deeper transformation witnessed across urban societal spaces in India. This transformation is closely linked to another issue affecting contemporary India: migration. Like millions of other families, we moved to an urban ecosystem in pursuit of career advancement and better professional opportunities. This has resulted in a form of care-absentia, where regular in-person contact with parents, cousins, grandparents, and close relatives has steadily diminished. These relationships once played a vital role in shaping our values and creating a sense of belonging. In joint families, the upbringing of a child is a shared responsibility and experience. In nuclear families, children have relationships with grandparents and extended family members through occasional visits and video calls rather than regular in-person interactions. The changing socialisation process is creating a social vacuum, which market forces and digital platforms are racing to fill. Children's leisure, and parents' commitment to professional circles, are increasingly mediated through apps, streaming platforms, branded toys, and algorithmically curated content. This is not an abstract sociological observation; inside the home, there is a deeper engagement with algorithmic platforms. A survey published by *Statista* in September 2023 found that many urban parents reported that their children spent 3-6 hours per day using social media, OTT platforms, and online games. The average monthly data consumption is skyrocketing.

The cost of progress in the digital ecosystem has deeper consequences if we are not responsible enough in equipping individuals with media and information literacy. Western governments have a long history of grappling with the paradigm of empowerment measures to aggressive interventions. Protectionist measures argued that, as children are fundamentally vulnerable, it is important to design architectures of the modern internet from a restriction-based perspective, such as mandatory age verification, algorithmic blocking, and social media bans. On the other hand, the empowerment approach emphasises human-agency and argues that protectionist measures isolate children and strip them of their fundamental digital rights. In a country like India, direct bans and pure empowerment measures are insufficient; a balanced approach is required that integrates targeted structural protection and active user empowerment.

Moving into the commercial environment, where children's desires are continuously cultivated. The political economy asks important questions: who benefits from manufactured choices? The answer remains a bit complex; it entangles with multiple threads, as children's attention is a multi-million-dollar business. A large sum is invested to reach this audience; as they govern family decisions about what to buy. In India, as the economy expanded, the middle class and its purchasing power grew exponentially, driving the expansion of child-consumer markets. The sector associated with this industry capitalises on social media and online marketplaces to build a bond with parents for children's products. The loop of interconnectedness is omnipresent. A child encounters a character on a convergent platform, the same character on a toy, and the toy marks its appearance at the shopping mall. The process of consumption of that entity becomes an integral part of its existence; choices are carefully formed, stitched, and structured.

Today's challenge is structural. In India, the growth of the service and manufacturing sectors remained primarily saturated in urban pockets and select regions. Due to the advancement of the service industry, cities such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, Mumbai, and Delhi have become major hubs for market institutions to thrive, and migration has become a prominent feature in those regions. Families from remote areas, driven by a dream of a better future and career prospects, moved into those regions, marking a shift in socialisation practices, leading to children's greater engagement with market forces. The commitment of parents to career advancement created a vacuum in their relationships with their children, and this has given scope for market forces to proliferate with market assets.

India's urban future will thrive through economic growth and technological advancement. However, if we wish to care for and serve children, we must remember that childhood thrives on our involvement, time, commitment, and meaningful human relationships, which no other alternate forces can fully provide.

(The writer is an assistant professor at the Department of Media Studies, Christ University, Bengaluru)

Chinese firms have some of the world's most advanced technology. But US officials say relying on it could come with a downside

ANA SWANSON

From batteries and solar panels to rare earths and life sciences, China is developing some of the world's most advanced technologies, and it is rapidly deploying plans to corner other markets and the CATL (above) is indicative of this. NYT

As Chinese tech pulls ahead, US fears it will become dependent

At a factory in southeastern China, robot arms spin balletically, winding long strips of metal into rolls and shaping them into bricks that are destined to become batteries. As workers in white overalls watch, the nascent batteries are packaged into aluminium cases and, as workers put it, "given life" — endowed with an electrical charge that will eventually power cars and data centres across the world.

The site, owned by Contemporary Amperex Technology Co Ltd, or CATL, is the world's largest cluster of battery factories, and the most advanced. Inside its walls, the dynamic between the United States and China is changing.

For decades, American companies maintained a huge technological lead over their Chinese competitors. US companies came to China to manufacture their goods more cheaply. As a price of entry, the Chinese government forced foreign companies into partnerships where Chinese companies could learn from them and absorb their more advanced technology.

In at least a few sectors, the equation has flipped, with China racing ahead of the US. From batteries and solar panels to rare earths and life sciences, China is developing some of the world's most advanced technologies, and it is rapidly deploying plans to corner other markets.

CATL is indicative of that shift. It has unveiled a battery that, according to the company, can power an electric vehicle for 250 miles with less than 10 minutes of charging — about three times faster than the charging speed of batteries typically found in other EVs. CATL's battery technology is powering millions of inexpensive EVs that China is exporting to the world.

The company sees further potential in America's enormous car market. These advances are raising major questions for US officials, who see danger in relying too much on Chinese technology. Lawmakers and some administration officials argue that China has used predatory practices to build a dominant position in batteries and other fields. They say that has hollowed out the industrial base of other countries, including the US, and extended the Chinese government's power globally.

Over the past year, Beijing wielded its control over global supply chains, cutting off mineral exports and threatening to shut down US factories to force the Trump administration to back down on tariffs. China has described its control of other industries, like pharmaceuticals, as a potential future lever over foreign governments.

John Moolenaar, a Republican representative, who is chair of the House Select Committee on China, said China had subsidised CATL "to undercut non-China competitors and build worldwide dependence." Entrusting a critical industry to the company would be "a grave error," he added. But others say not working with Chinese companies like CATL will lead US companies to fall behind, eroding America's position in important industries. Walling off the world's most dynamic economies could also slow progress towards scientific and technological advances, and impede efforts to combat climate change.

"For decades now, we've been used to a world where the technology and innovation comes out of the West," said Kyle Chan, a fellow at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank. "The tables are turning."

The US appears to be at an inflection point, where it must choose if it wants to use China's cheap and advanced battery technology — or spend much more to develop an independent supply chain for an industry that could come to underpin much of US energy infrastructure. American officials have been opposed to Chinese car imports, seeing them as a fast ticket to destroying the US auto industry. But they are more divided over the batteries that go into cars, power plants and data centres because most major battery makers are foreign companies.

General Motors has invested with South Korean battery makers to build a non-Chinese supply chain, but other US automakers already consider CATL a vital partner. CATL sells batteries to Tesla, and it has licensed its technology to Ford Motor to use in plants in Michigan and Kentucky.

Ford collaborated with South Korean battery maker SK On in its Kentucky factory, but dissolved the partnership in December. Republicans have scrapped Biden administration incentives for EVs, cooling the EV market in the United States. This year, Ford said it would pivot the Kentucky plant to make batteries for energy producers and data centres, an area where Congress still provides subsidies.

CATL's presence in the US has been controversial. In 2023, then-Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin blocked a Ford-CATL factory, calling it a "Trojan horse" for the Chinese Communist Party.

In 2025, the US government added CATL to a list of Chinese military companies, saying it was "indirectly affiliated" with top bodies of the Chinese government. CATL said that the designation, which barred the company from US defence contracts, was "a mistake" and that it had never engaged in any military business.

Chinese investment already faces significant hurdles in the US, including federal security reviews and State restrictions on Chinese purchases of real estate and farmland. The US also has high tariffs on Chinese car and battery imports, and a ban on the use of Chinese software starting with 2027 vehicles.

But American and Chinese companies are eyeing whether President Donald Trump's seeming openness to doing business with China and his plans to meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping again this year might open the way for more partnerships.

Trump has welcomed investment from Japan and Europe, and Chinese officials have pitched their US counterparts on investing in the United States. During Trump's visit to China last month, the countries said they would create a "board of investment."

In an interview on *CNBC* on May 14, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the board would "decide upfront what are the nonstrategic, nonsensitive areas where it would be possible for the Chinese to invest."

But the Trump administration has been attuned to criticisms that Chinese investments could compromise national security. In May, Jamieson Greer, the US trade representative, said the board would be focused more on resolving specific complaints by US companies than on creating a "program of mutual investment."

Reva Goujon, a director at Rhodium Group, a research firm, said US companies like Ford and Stellantis were interested in partnerships that could help them absorb more advanced Chinese technology and maintain their EV lineups without incurring high costs. Stellantis has a joint venture with CATL in Europe and is constructing a battery factory in Spain.

The Chinese government has encouraged some companies to expand internationally, but with strategic sectors like batteries, there are still big questions about how much technology China will allow them to share with foreign partners. In addition to flexing its control over mineral exports, Beijing recently added restrictions to exporting battery manufacturing technologies, and established a more rigorous system to review outbound technology investments.

At the CATL's factory complex in Ningde, fresh air from the East China Sea flowed into a huge white marble lobby and a showroom with the slogan "Together for the energy freedom!" The building is shaped like a lithium battery, the product that tens of thousands of workers are making in nearby factories.

But Chinese policies have also been central to the company's success, specifically financial incentives for Chinese consumers to buy EVs. The government poured hundreds of billions of dollars into the sector. Directives from the highest levels of the Communist Party encouraged battery research, while regulations discouraged the use of non-Chinese batteries and pushed American companies out of the country.

US officials have criticised China's industrial subsidies, saying they create an unfair playing field and distort global markets. Those practices show no sign of slowing.

The New York Times

Who will control India's seeds?

DIVVYA MAHEPAL MADERNNA

On June 12, the Bureau of Indian Standards unveiled new standards for community seed banks, recognising village networks and women-led cooperatives that have preserved India's seed diversity for generations. At a time when climate change, biodiversity loss, and food security seep into precarity, this move appeared to affirm the importance of community-led seed systems.

Yet, despite the government celebrating these institutions, a larger question looms. A few weeks prior, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan indicated that the new seeds and pesticides laws are nearing completion and would soon reach Parliament. At the heart of these statutes lies the Draft Seeds Bill, 2025, which, while promising stronger regulation and quality control, has raised profound concerns about seed sovereignty, corporate concentration, and the future of community seed networks in India. The debate raises a fundamental question: who will control India's seeds – the first link in India's food chain?

Every sowing season, millions of Indian farmers save and exchange seeds. These practices form the backbone of India's agricultural resilience, preserving varieties of seeds shaped by generations of adaptation to local climates. The Draft Seeds Bill, 2025, now seeks to reshape this landscape. It introduces digital traceability, QR-code monitoring, and stricter penalties to curb counterfeit seeds. The real concern, however, is whether this framework is designed for farmers or large commercial actors.

Across India, village seed banks, women's collectives, farmer cooperatives, and community networks preserve traditional and climate-resilient varieties while helping farmers retain collective control over seeds and the biodiversity they embody. However, under this new bill, seed banks that store or distribute seeds at scale could fall within the bill's definition of a "producer" or "distributor", making them subject to registration, testing, and compliance requirements similar to those imposed on commercial enterprises. While such obligations may be manageable for large corporations with dedicated compliance teams, they can become heavily prohibitive for community-led groups with limited resources, gradually eroding their autonomy and control over India's seed diversity. The farmer, while legally free, will be pushed to become increasingly dependent.

The bill also raises concerns about federalism and local suitability. Agriculture in India is inherently local, and seeds suited to one region may fail in another. Yet the draft centralises greater authority in the Union government while reducing the role of states in seed governance. Particularly contentious is the provision allowing recognition of seed evaluation data generated outside India. While this may streamline approvals, varieties tested in Europe or North America cannot automatically be assumed suitable for Indian heatwaves, erratic monsoons, or region-specific pests, making local evaluation indispensable. Under such conditions, pricing raises concerns as well. With the loss of valuable genetic traits from their hands, farmers could face rising cultivation costs if corporate seeds fail, while the bill simultaneously provides no dedicated fast-track mechanism for compensation.

For many urban Indians, this debate may sound distant and highly technical. However, it is not.

History offers a cautionary lesson. In countries where the seed industry has become increasingly concentrated, a handful of corporations have come to exercise significant influence over what is planted across millions of acres. The issue is not merely ownership. In an era of accelerating climate change, India's greatest strength lies in its extraordinary crop diversity. From ragi and bajra to indigenous rice varieties and region-specific pulses, these crops have evolved through generations of adaptation to local climates, soils, and nutritional needs. This diversity is more than a cultural inheritance; it is an insurance policy against an uncertain ecological future.

When thousands of locally adapted varieties are replaced by a smaller number of commercially dominant crops, agriculture becomes far more vulnerable. A pest, disease, or climate shock affecting a widely cultivated variety can threaten food production on a much larger scale. Diversity disperses risk; homogeneity concentrates it. The debate over seeds is therefore ultimately a debate about resilience, food security, and sovereignty.

India undoubtedly needs modern seed regulation. Spurious seeds must be eliminated, quality standards strengthened, and innovation encouraged. A regulatory framework that protects quality while preserving farmers' role as custodians of biodiversity would be a genuine step forward.

(The writer is the National Secretary in charge of Jammu and Kashmir, All India Congress Committee)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: JUNE 1976

Opposition only subdued, not vanquished: PM

New Delhi, June 25
Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said today that under Emergency, the Opposition had been subdued but warned it had not been vanquished. In an interview to *Samachar*, on the completion of one year of Emergency, Mrs. Gandhi said: "It (Opposition) reappears in different garbs and slogans, but the motive remains the same, that is, to create confusion in the country and divert people from their great tasks of economic development, removal of injustice and lessening of disparities."

25 YEARS AGO: JUNE 2001

Private telecom services in Bangalore from October

Bangalore, June 25
Here's cheering news for those who have been waiting for BSNL telephone connection. Come October and Bharti Telenet Ltd, one of the major private telecom players in India, will start the basic telephone (fixed land line and national long distance) services in Bangalore. Telephone connections will be provided within seven days for applicants. Tariffs will be as per the guidelines set by the TRAI. Optical fibre cables will form the backbone for the telephone services.

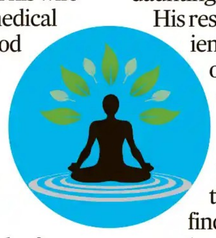
OASIS | ANANTHAPADMANABHAN

Turning pain into purpose

When life presents intense hardship, it is natural to feel a sense of constriction. Whether one encounters the loss of a career, the dissolution of a long-standing union, or an unexpected health challenge, such setbacks often precipitate uncertainty. In these intervals, the weight of circumstance can feel absolute, fostering a sense of isolation. Finding a bridge between the current reality and a more stable future becomes paramount.

History proves that our most significant growth is forged in struggle. This is perfectly exemplified by the legendary Dashrath Manjhi, the 'Mountain Man of India', who became an enduring symbol of how one can patiently transmute intense pain into a dedicated mission.

Following the tragic loss of his wife—due to an inability to reach medical care because a mountain stood between his village and the nearest town—Manjhi was confronted with immense grief. By any objective standard, his circumstances were insurmountable. However, instead of succumbing to resentment, he chose a path of disciplined resolve.



Armed only with a hammer and chisel, he undertook the monumental task of carving a path through the mountain himself. For 22 years, he laboured with unwavering resolve, transforming a daunting barrier into a thoroughfare.

His resolve demonstrates that resilience is not merely the endurance of suffering but the proactive channelling of that pain into a legacy of service.

Moving beyond individual trauma, Manjhi focused on the needs of his neighbours, finding true strength by transmuting his pain into a contribution that benefits the greater good. His life stands as a testament that our most formidable setbacks can, in reality, be the impetus for transformative action.

This perspective offers a roadmap for those navigating uncertainty. Redirecting focus toward a modest act of service provides a broader vantage point. Such efforts are not an attempt to diminish the gravity of personal challenges but an assertion of agency. By assisting another, we often discover the fortitude required to navigate our own burdens.

By embracing our challenges with courage and dedication, we gradually transform our deepest wounds into powerful sources of inspiration. This ensures that the path we carve through our challenges eventually illuminates the way for others.

Punjab CM denies being in viral video, claims lookalike wore face mask

Mann alleges Canada-based man fabricated clip as Oppn steps up attacks

CHANDIGARH, PTI

Facing mounting criticism from the Opposition over a controversial video, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday reiterated that he was not in that video and claimed that the person seen in the objectionable clip was wearing a mask resembling his face.

The chief minister again accused the Opposition parties — the Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the BJP — of joining hands to defame him on religious issues.

Addressing the media here, Mann showed a video, claiming that the person seen in the video was wearing a mask that resembled his face. He further

Bhagwant Mann

said that a mark on his neck was not visible on the man in the video, stressing that he was not in the purported video.

"This blackmailer, who is holding this mask in his hand, put it on some other person and made a video."

The CM claimed that a Canada-based person, whom he identified as Jagman Samra and called a "blackmailer", brought a mask. He also showed another video, claiming that Samra was holding that mask, which looks like Mann's face.

"This blackmailer, who is holding this mask in his hand, put it on some other person and made a video," he claimed.

Mann claimed that the video was made in a hotel room in Canada, adding that he has not visited that country since November 2016.

"I have been saying that I am not in that video as the person seen in the video clip does not match his height and physique," he said, adding that he will reveal who the producer and the director of the video were in the coming days.

The Haryana Police on Tuesday arrested two men on a complaint regarding the alleged procurement of a fabricated forensic report related to a viral video linked to the controversy involving him.

The development came amid a political storm triggered by an alleged objectionable video over which the Akal Takht, the supreme temporal body of Sikhs, had issued an edict against CM Mann on June 15.

Meanwhile, Opposition parties stepped up their attack on Mann, demanding his resignation, giving a call for his social boycott, alleging that the CM tried to undermine the authority of the Akal Takht.

The Congress and the BJP also demanded the registration of an FIR against him under the new anti-sacrilege law.

Pune realtor's murder: Maha govt orders SIT probe

MUMBAI, DHNS: The Maharashtra government will form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to conduct a probe into the murder of Pune realtor Ketan Agrawal.

The latest details to emerge are that Siya Goyal (20), a resident of Bibwewadi in Market Yard in Pune and her lover Chetan Chaudhary (22), a resident of Kondhwa in Pune, planned the murder of Ketan Agarwal (25) at a cafe in Pune a day before June 18.

Ketan and Siya were scheduled to get married in November at a palace in Udaipur in Rajasthan, however, the girl wanted to avoid it as she was in a relationship with Chetan.

MLA Raju Khare, who is in the panel of presiding officers and was in Speaker's Chair, directed the government to set up an SIT after NCP member Sunil Shelke raised the issue in the state assembly, demanding that Goyal's family be made the accused in the murder case.

However, Shiv Sena (UBT) member Bhaskar Jadhav asked if the presiding officer's directive is binding on the government. Shelke claimed Goyal's family had hidden the information about her relationship with another person from the Agrawal family.

Investigations so far have revealed that Siya and Chetan met in November last year and later entered into a relationship even as her marriage preparations were underway.

Equal access to law is first step to true equality: CJI

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Surya Kant

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Wednesday asserted that providing equal access to the law is the foundational step towards achieving real equality and emphasised that it must go beyond mere procedural formalities to deliver substantive rights.

Speaking at the XIV St Petersburg International Legal Forum in Russia, the CJI said equal access to justice cannot remain a "procedural nicety" but must result in the actual conferment of rights rather than "hollow statutory declarations".

"We must ask ourselves what it actually takes for equality before the law to become real. My answer, which I draw from my experience presiding over one of the world's largest and most complex judicial systems, is that the first step to equality is providing equal access to the law," Justice Kant said.

The Chief Justice pointed out that the roots of equality are not necessarily traced only to the Magna Carta of 1215, but have deeper origins in ancient Indian thought.

"Rather, my own personal belief is that its roots are traceable to Kautilya's Arthashastra, which belongs to the Indian subcontinent and propounded the theory of equality in the fourth century," he noted.

Highlighting the Indian experience, Justice Kant said the Constitution promised a new dawn by enshrining Fundamental Rights, including equality before the law, the right to life with dignity, and equal justice.

"The most significant obstacle to equality is not the lack of legal or statutory support; rather, it is manifested through geographical, social and economic disparities," he observed.

Properties linked to DMK strongman Velu raided in corruption case

CHENNAI, DHNS: In the first action against ministers of the previous DMK government after the TVK stormed to power, the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) on Thursday conducted raids at 14 locations linked to E V Velu, the party strongman from Tiruvannamalai, in connection with a corruption case filed against him and ten former and present government officials.

Velu is one of the key aides of DMK President M K Stalin and held the powerful and cash-rich Highways and Public Works portfolios in the previous government. A multi-millionaire who owns several educational institutions and other businesses, Velu won the Tiruvannamalai seat by a slender margin this election with a software engineer-turned-activist Arul Arumugam from TVK giving him a tough fight.

DVAC filed a case on Wednesday evening naming Velu as the first accused, along with ten other present and former highways officials, and contractor Sankaranand Infra. "About 14 places belonging to or related to Velu are being searched," a source at the DVAC told *DH*.

The action against Velu comes just days after Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay promised to act against people who had indulged in corrupt practices in the previous governments. Ministers of the TVK government have been vocal in "exposing" the corruption under the previous regime and accusing that a "party fund" existed until two months ago.

This is first action against DMK functionaries after Vijay assumed office. The case was registered based on a plea submitted by Arappor Iyakkam convenor Jayaram Venkatesan in April 2022 and FIR says payments amounting to Rs 3.23 crore were made to contractor even before work began.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

SHOULDN'T YOU BE HEADING HOME FOR DINNER SOON?
WELL, MY MOM IS MAKING LIVER AND ONIONS
I WAS HOPING YOU'D ASK ME TO STAY FOR DINNER
BUT IF NOT, CAN I AT LEAST GET SOMETHING TO GO?

Hagar The Horrible

ON A SCALE OF ONE TO TEN, HOW MUCH PAIN ARE YOU IN?
THE PAIN IN MY ARM IS AN EIGHT!
THE PAIN IN MY BUTT IS A TEN AFTER SITTING IN YOUR WAITING ROOM FOR TWO HOURS!

Beetle Bailey

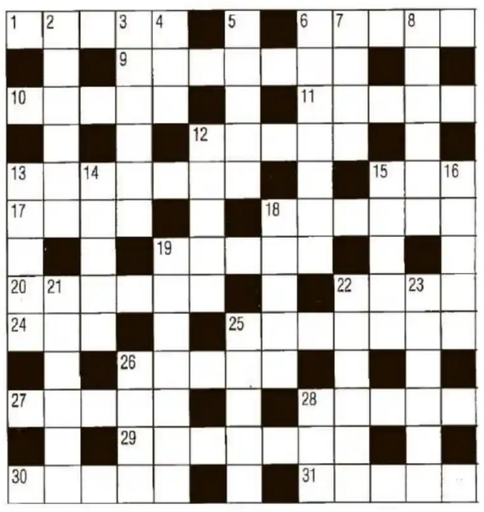
WHEN I WAS AT THE ACADEMY, I WAS RECOGNIZED AS THE LEADER OF MY CLASS
IMPRESSIVE, SIR
HE WENT TO WEST POINT?
NO, THE "TINY TOTS ACADEMY PRESCHOOL"

Peanuts

HERE'S THE WORLD WAR I FLYING ACE SITTING IN A SMALL CAFE IN FRANCE
HE IS LONELY... HE IS DEPRESSED
HE REALIZES THAT HIS GIRL BACK HOME DOESN'T LOVE HIM ANY MORE..EVEN THOUGH SHE JUST SENT HIM A BOX OF COOKIES...
THEY'RE ALL FILLED WITH COCONUT!
BLEAH!
AAK!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12447



ACROSS
1 Cheerful (5)
6 Hidden store (5)
9 Regain (7)
10 Temptress (5)
11 Farm (5)
12 Flower (5)
13 Chief city (7)
15 Undergarment (3)
17 Beers (4)
18 Piece of meat (6)
19 Without (5)
20 Tooth covering (6)
22 College head (4)
24 Sprint (3)
25 Subtlety (7)
26 Dead language (5)
27 Once more (5)
28 Keen (5)
29 Complaint (7)
30 Severe (5)
31 River mouth (5)

DOWN
2 Beast (6)
3 Summary (6)
4 Currency unit (3)
5 Tycoon (5)
6 Grave (7)
7 Snare (4)
8 Safe (6)
12 Asian language (5)
13 Log (5)
14 Nut (5)
15 Style of music (5)
16 Make amends (5)
18 Spice (5)
19 Skin pigment (7)
21 Small lump (6)
22 Discussion (6)
23 Agreement (6)
25 Reels (5)
26 Fibber (4)
28 Finish (3)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Do they play a supporting role in the theatre? (5)
6 Can it bring us semi-penury? (5)
9 Boy not yet ten but strong and brave (7)
10 It's totally different from a weasel (5)
11 Does mending work for sailors in sad disarray (5)
12 Ring for something to eat (5)
13 Claimed a cricket side to be in the lead, falsely (7)
15 Well contradicted (3)
17 Look possible to make a hat out of leather (4)
18 The business of winding endless bandages (6)
19 A quiet, promising start (5)
20 Was he not cut out to be a composer? (6)
22 Obviously not the main part of an apple (4)
24 How time changes one (3)
25 Given in a big way (7)
26 Don't allow a chap to be trite (5)
27 Acceptable invalidity? (5)
28 The practise of standing upright in the bath, maybe (5)
29 Carefully brushed garment? (7)
30 Not returning some of one's revenue (5)
31 She's easily caught (5)

DOWN
2 Shake like a snake? (6)
3 Performer of an early composition on the piano (6)
4 Fixed in a circle? (3)
5 Work with one's hands (5)
6 Suffer in breaking ground out East (7)
7 More than a marine animal (4)
8 He arranged a loan in the middle of the road! (6)
12 Make a start, for instance, in the wine storage (5)
13 Alias Celia? (5)
14 Bitter, it could be most solemn (5)
15 Where something is admitted, when allowed (5)
16 Landowner with his own little retreat at Land's End (5)
18 Flying nurse? (5)
19 Spanish sportsman with a pointed purpose (7)
21 Did he house people in Rome? (6)
22 In the kitchen, it can go to a pot (6)
23 Is such combat conducted on radio? (6)
25 Give a moving performance (5)
26 Snack on a mere morsel, sweetheart (4)
28 Taken in and put in the shade (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12446

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, To-bag-O 7, Water-loo 8, Treble 10, Flesh(-pots) 13, Reef 14, Tes-t 15, LI-MP 16, Ten 17, Epic 19, O-v-en 21, Feathered 23, C-all 24, Arts 26, Why 27, Acre 29, Tram 32, S-cud 33, La-it-y 34, A-sleep 35, In a flash 36, Head- Ed.
DOWN: 1, SW-ift 2, St-i-es 3, Arch 4, Tote-M 5, Bee-f 6, G-old-en 9, Re-port 11, Leg 12, Steel 13, Richa-Rd. 15, L-it 16, Ted 18, Palace 20, Ve-sta 21, Fa-y 22, Ere 23, Chaste 25, Vat 28, C-up-id 30, Ri-V-al 31, Myths 32, S-end 33, Loft.

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Comics 7, Approval 8, Easily 10, Alias 13, Rash 14, Dent 15, Pens 16, Far 17, Lard 19, Emir 21, Gasometer 23, Dosh 24, East 26, Bed 27, On at 29, Raid 32, Brat 33, Forge 34, Regret 35, Absolute 36, Reveal.
DOWN: 1, Salad 2, Spain 3, Toss 4, Clean 5, Mesh 6, Collar 9, Assets 11, Len 12, Atlas 13, Red meat 15, Pro 16, Fir 18, Ashore 20, Metro 21, God 22, Eat 23, Delete 25, Big 28, Natal 30, Argue 31, Deter 32, Brie 33, Foot.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6942 ◆

3						5		
8			1	6		9		4
			2		7		6	
						4		1
	4		8		9		3	
1		8						
	8		6		4			
6		5		9	1			2
		1						9

hard

5	9	6	7	2	8	4	1	3
7	4	1	3	5	9	6	2	8
8	2	3	6	4	1	5	7	9
9	5	4	1	3	6	7	8	2
3	7	8	2	9	5	1	6	4
1	6	2	8	7	4	3	9	5
2	1	5	4	8	7	9	3	6
6	8	9	5	1	3	2	4	7
4	3	7	9	6	2	8	5	1

SOLUTION TO 6941

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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B3	S1	L1	I1	M3	E1	U1	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
A1	A1	A1	H4	T1	C3	C3		RACK 2
O1	S1	B3	I1	O1	T1	R1	Double Word Score	RACK 3
A1	A1	O1	T1	M3	D2	R1		RACK 4

PAR SCORE 110-120
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

V4	O1	L1	U1	T1	E1		RACK 1	= 9
H4	I1	B3	A1	C3	H4	I1	RACK 2	= 84
C3	A1	P3	T1	A1	I1	N1	RACK 3	= 64
C3	A1	N1	O1	P3	Y4		RACK 4	= 39
							JUDD'S TOTAL	196

PAR SCORE 125-135

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

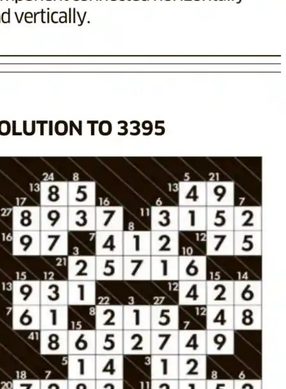
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TNUYT

DEUGJ

VIDEID

STAWYE


What recipe are you using? Are you making Buffalo or garlic Parmesan?
I think I'm going to try something new and combine a bunch of these.
12/15
SHE WAS UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE CHICKEN APPETIZER RECIPES AND DECIDED TO ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

(Answers Tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SWIFT DROOP HEALTH FIASCO
Answer: The subdivision they had chosen for their dream home had — LOTS TO OFFER

HITORI-3396

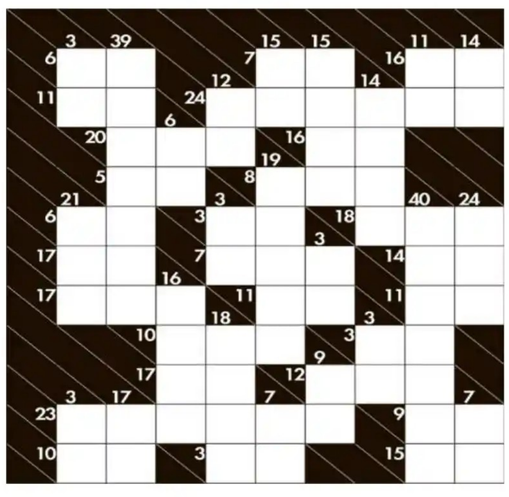
1	3	8	2	8	4	7	6
8	3	1	3	4	5	3	6
7	3	5	1	3	7	2	4
3	6	2	8	1	7	3	3
5	4	3	6	3	2	3	1
8	2	7	3	8	6	4	5
3	5	4	8	3	1	3	2
3	7	8	3	2	3	1	8

SOLUTION TO 3395

1	2	6	5	■	8	4	3
8	■	3	4	7	6	■	1
■	5	■	8	■	4	7	■
5	8	7	■	3	1	6	2
6	1	8	3	5	2	■	7
■	7	■	2	■	3	5	■
3	■	5	1	6	7	■	8
2	3	1	6	■	5	8	4

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3396



SOLUTION TO 3395

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3958

8		9		7		2	6	
2								
		5					8	4
						3		9
		2		9	5	8		
		8			4		5	2
						7		
				1				
		1						

SOLUTION TO 3957

5	4	3	1	9	2	6	8	7
8	7	6	5	3	4	9	1	2
1	2	9	7	6	8	3	5	4
4	9	7	8	5	6	1	2	3
3	8	5	9	2	1	7	4	6
6	1	2	4	7	3	8	9	5
2	3	8	6	1	5	4	7	9
7	5	1	3	4	9	2	6	8
9	6	4	2	8	7	5	3	1

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

DECCAN HERALD
Friday
June 26, 2026

ing fix to water row: to Centre

tion disputes, he said.

The Telangana CM said his government had already brought these concerns to Patil's attention and affirmed that the meeting had resolved to pursue a permanent solution without further delay.

Naidu used the occasion to make a broader case for river interlinking as a long-term strategy for water security in peninsular India.

He credited Union Minister Patil with not only connecting the governments of AP, Karnataka and Telangana but also, symbolically, the rivers that flow through them.

Naidu invoked historical cooperation to underline what was achievable when states worked together.

He recalled that in 1983, the then prime minister Indira Gandhi and chief ministers collectively agreed to provide water to Tamil Nadu.

With the consent of undivided Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra, 15 tmcft of drinking water was supplied to Chennai. Such precedents, he argued, demonstrated the power of federal cooperation over regional rivalry.

Looking ahead, Naidu called for linking the Godavari and Cauvery rivers, asserting that the project would serve the collective interests of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

He pointed to the Ken-Betwa project linking rivers in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh as a successful national model, adding that connecting the Ganga and Cauvery would make India "unstoppable" in agricultural and economic potential.

Naidu flagged that El Niño conditions had significantly reduced upstream inflows into both the Tungabhadra and Almatti reservoirs, making conservative water use an urgent necessity this season.

No change in law, says govt amid passport row

Cong accuses BJP of creating panic over citizenship

NEW DELHI, PTI

A raging controversy erupted on Thursday on the passport-citizenship issue with the government asserting that no new decision has been taken on the travel document in the past 12 years and the opposition alleging that groundwork is being done to "arbitrarily deny" citizenship rights to those who "disagree" with the ruling dispensation.

Citing the Passport Act 1967, government sources said passports can be given to even non-citizens "in the public interest" while Election Commission officials said passport continues to be among the 12 valid supporting documents required by voters to prove their eligibility to be on the voters' list.

The controversy emerged after the media reported, quoting MEA officials, that a passport is a travel document, not proof of citizenship. It is not a document that establishes citizenship, the MEA officials had said on Wednesday.

"It was not decided yesterday that the passport is not a proof of citizenship. It was not even decided in the last 12 years under the Narendra Modi government. The passport has never been a proof of citizenship," a government source said.

The sources also cited Section 20 of the Passports Act, 1967, which says that passports and travel documents can be issued to persons who are not citizens of India.

"Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions relating to issue of a passport or travel document, the central government may issue, or cause to be issued, a passport or travel document to a person who is not a citizen of India if that government is of the opinion that it is necessary so to do in the public interest."

However, the Section 6(2)(a) of the same Passports Act, 1967 provides that the passport authority shall refuse to issue a passport "if the applicant is not a citizen of India".

Congress slammed the MEA statement and alleged that the government is laying the groundwork to arbitrarily deny citizenship rights to Indians with whom it disagrees.

Congress general secretary K C Venugopal alleged that the BJP-led government had earlier removed the names of people from certain communities from the electoral rolls to suit its political agenda.

"This government excels in creating panic and helplessness among ordinary citizens. By declaring that even a passport doesn't certify one's citizenship, they are laying the groundwork to arbitrarily deny citizenship rights to Indians who they disagree with," Venugopal said in a post on X.

BJP cites statute

The BJP defended the MEA statement and asserted that the Modi government has not introduced any new rule regarding passports. The party said the MEA has merely reiterated a long-settled legal position that a passport alone is not conclusive proof of Indian citizenship.

The BJP cited the Passports Act, 1967, and judicial rulings, including a 2013 Bombay High Court judgment, to contend that citizenship is determined under the Citizenship Act, 1955, and not by the possession of any single document.

DH DECIPHERS

Citizenship and the law: What determines who is an Indian citizen?

The Ministry of External Affairs has said that an Indian passport is only a travel document and not conclusive proof of Indian citizenship. **Sumit Pande** *explains how citizenship is defined under the statute.*

Is a passport not proof of Indian citizenship?
Technically speaking, a passport is issued under the Passports Act, 1967. It is a travel and identity document that does not necessarily confirm citizenship. If challenged before a court of law, citizenship has to be established under the Citizenship Act, 1955.

How is citizenship decided?
Citizenship is a legal status granted by the state, vesting specific rights in an individual, such as the right to vote. India has no universal citizenship document. The grant of citizenship is governed by Articles 5 to 11 of the Constitution. Article 11 empowers Parliament to regulate the citizenship law. In exercise of this power, the Citizenship Act 1955 was passed by Parliament, which also defines how a person can acquire Indian citizenship.

What are the documents that prove Indian citizenship?
Neither the Citizenship Act nor the Constitution defines any specific documents that establish citizenship. Citizenship claims can be supported by documents that are proof of place and date of birth, domicile and parentage. The Government of India, however, issues citizenship certificates to persons who acquire citizenship by registration or naturalisation.

What was the 2003 amendments to the Citizenship Act?
The law was amended to specify that any person born after December 3, 2004, shall be an Indian citizen if at least one of the parents is an Indian citizen and the other was not an illegal migrant at the time of birth..

What were the amendments introduced in the citizenship law in 1987?
The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 1986, which was notified in July 1987, defined that for people born in India on or after that date would be citizens by birth if at least one parent was an Indian citizen at the time of birth. Whereas, a person born before July 1, 1987, was entitled to get Indian citizenship regardless of their parents' nationality.

What is citizenship by birth?
Article 5 of the Constitution defines who would be a citizen of India at the time of commencement of the Constitution on January 26, 1950. Such a person should be a domicile of India on that date. He could be born in the Indian territory, or have at least one parent born in the Indian territory, or have been ordinarily resident in India for not less than five years immediately preceding the adoption of the Constitution.

What is citizenship by descent?
As per the Citizenship Act, a person born outside India on or after January 26, 1950, but before December 10, 1992, shall be a citizen of India by descent if his father was a citizen of India at the time of his birth. A person born outside India on or after December 10, 1992, but before December 3, 2004, shall be a citizen if either of his parents was a citizen of India at the time of his birth. A person born outside India after December 3, 2004, shall be a citizen of India if either of his parents is a citizen of India and his birth is registered at the Indian Consulate.

What are other ways to acquire Indian citizenship?
A person can also acquire citizenship by registration if the applicant is a person of Indian origin though a process laid down in the law. The Government of India can also grant a certificate of naturalisation to any person on fulfilling the residency requirement of 12 years if the person is eligible for such a certificate. Certain conditions may also be waived off for the grant of citizenship under this category for the people who have rendered distinguished services in the field of science, art, literature, philosophy, world peace and human progress. If any territory is incorporated in India, the government may, through a notification, specify the people who would be granted citizenship. The Citizenship Act was last amended in 2019 to make a provision for granting citizenship to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who entered India on or before December 31, 2014.

Does India issue any identity proof to its citizens?
According to a reply given in Parliament last year, the Citizenship Act, 1955, as amended in 2004, empowers the central government to compulsorily register every citizen of India and issue a National Identity Card. The procedure is laid down in the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Card) Rules, 2003. However, no such card has been issued so far.

Centre hikes passport fees from Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,500

NEW DELHI, PTI: The government has revised the passport fee structure through an amendment to the Passports Rules, 1980, increasing the application fee for an ordinary fresh passport containing 36 pages from Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,500.

The new rules will come into force from July 1 this year.

According to a notification dated June 20 and published by the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday, for an ordinary fresh passport or reissue of a 36-page passport, the normal fee would be Rs 2,500, while for a Tatkal one, it would be Rs 5,000 for the same category.

At present, the application fee for an ordinary fresh passport or reissue of a 36-page passport stands at Rs 1,500, and for Tatkal, it is Rs 3,500 for the same category.

Similarly, the application fee for an ordinary fresh passport or reissue of a 60-page passport has been hiked from Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,500, and for the Tatkal, the revised fee will be Rs 6,000 as against Rs 4,000 for the same category.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by section 24 of the Passports Act, 1967 (15 of 1967), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Passports Rules, 1980, namely — 1. (1) These rules may be called the Passports (Amendment) Rules, 2026. (2) They shall come into force with effect from the 1st day of July, 2026," the notification said.

In its notification, the government also issued a Schedule which will substitute "Schedule IV to the Passports Rules, 1980".

The revised schedule mentions two sub-categories — for applicants (18 years of age and above/minors aged between 15 and 18 years, if applying under this category); and minor applicants (below 18 years of age).

Passport valid document for SIR identification: EC

NEW DELHI, PTI: Election Commission officials on Thursday said that Indian passports continue to be among the 12 valid supporting documents required by voters to prove their eligibility to be on the voters' list under the ongoing special intensive revision of electoral rolls.

They were responding to a query following a controversy that arose after the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that a passport is not proof of citizenship, referencing the Passport Act of 1967.

Government sources have underlined that a passport has never been considered proof of citizenship, and there has been no new policy regarding this document implemented by the Modi government in the past 12 years.

During the Bihar SIR, Assam's special revision, and subsequent phases of poll roll revision, passports have consistently been listed as one of the 12 documents that individuals can submit when applying to register or maintain their status on the electoral rolls.

"Passport was and continues to be one of the documents to establish identity," an official said, underlining that "there is no change."

Jacqueline Fernandez

Jacqueline can withdraw plea in Sukesh-linked case, says SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Thursday permitted Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez to withdraw her petition challenging a Delhi court order framing charges against her in a Rs 200-crore money-laundering case linked to alleged conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi allowed the withdrawal, granting the liberty sought by the petitioner.

Jacqueline had approached the apex court against the Delhi court's May 30, which framed charges against her, Sukesh, and 15 others in an Enforcement Directorate (ED) case.

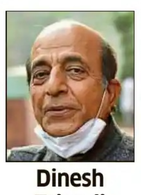
In a related case registered by the Delhi Police Special Cell, the trial court had also ordered the framing of charges against Sukesh and 20 others for various offences, including provisions of the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act.

The ED had summoned Jacqueline several times during the investigation. She was named as an accused in a supplementary chargesheet filed by the Central probe agency.

Indian envoy to Bangladesh granted Union minister status

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Centre has granted Indian envoy to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi the status equivalent to that of a Union cabinet minister.

An order issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Wednesday said Trivedi "has been assigned the equivalent status of Union Cabinet Minister in the Table of Precedence (ToP) as a measure personal to him, without amending the Table of Precedence".



Dinesh Trivedi

"The position in Table of Precedence is for ceremonial functions only," it added. Trivedi, a former Union minister, was appointed as India's high commissioner to Bangladesh on April 27.

The 76-year-old Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader presented his credentials to President Mohammed Shahabuddin in Dhaka on Thursday.

Travel visas resumed

Shortly after the ceremony, Trivedi made his first public appearance at the Indian Visa Centre in Dhaka, where he announced the resumption of travel visas for Bangladeshi nationals.

The travel visas were halted nearly two years ago amid an escalated security situation and strained ties between two countries.

"I am very happy to be able to announce the launch of general travel visas again. Visa applications can be submitted starting June 28," Trivedi said.

New Delhi's decision to send a veteran politician to Dhaka came at a time when both sides are looking at repairing the bilateral ties.

Indo-Pak Track-II talks on amid tension

Both govts aware, but no endorsement from either side

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

GOODWILL HUNTING

- Track II dialogue between some Indian and Pakistani eminent personalities, like strategic affairs analysts and ex-diplomats, in Colombo followed similar talks in Bangkok
- While the governments in the two countries are aware of the talks, there was no official involvement on either side
- Indo-Pak talks remain suspended for about 13 years now following a series of terror attacks in 2016
- The Track-II talks took place even as Pakistan has raised its campaign pitch against India's decision to keep the Indus Water Treaty in abeyance

The ties between India and Pakistan may still be strained, with dialogues between the two governments off the table for sometime now, but unofficial talks between delegates from both countries are on track.

A source in New Delhi said the recent "Track-II" dialogue between some Indian and Pakistani eminent personalities — comprising strategic affairs analysts, former diplomats and retired military officials — in Colombo followed similar talks in Bangkok.

While the governments in the two countries are aware of the 'non-official' talks, there was no official involvement on either side.

Recently, Mohan Bhagwat, the RSS chief, and the organisation's general secretary, Dattatreya Hosabale, argued that India should keep the doors of dialogue open with Pakistan. The RSS leaders underlined the need for continuing people-to-people contact.

Another source in New Delhi, said while the Track II dialogues might continue, they were unlikely to lead to any official talks between India and Pakistan in the near future.

Formal talks between the two nations remain suspended for about 13 years now following a series of terror attacks in India in 2016.

The tension between the two countries reached a crescendo last year when Pakistani terrorists killed 26 people in Pahalgam and India retaliated with Operation Sindoor. As the tension escalated, not only Washington but Moscow and Beijing, too, called for direct talks between India and Pakistan.

The BJP-led government, however, had ruled out the possibility of a resumption of dialogue with Pakistan.

The recent rounds of Track-II diplomacy took place even as Pakistan has raised the pitch of its campaign against India's decision to keep the Indus Water Treaty in abeyance as a response to the terrorist attacks in Pahalgam, J&K.

New Delhi and Islamabad also continued the war of words over Pakistan's export of cross-border terrorism to India, and the situation in J&K. India also hit out at its neighbour for the atrocities on protesters in J&K areas under illegal occupation of Pakistan.

SECOND CHANCE

Viral clip sparks bear cub rescue in Arunachal

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

A video clip of a bear cub being gently cradled and fed milk from a bottle by a man, posted on Facebook recently, looked tender and harmless to many.

The Asiatic black bear cub was in the possession of a man in Arunachal Pradesh's Kamle district, who had found it alone on his farm about a month

Many watched, reacted and shared the video. Some saw it as an act of kindness, but others saw something more urgent: a young wild animal, away from its mother, in need of expert care.

The video eventually reached a wildlife cyber analyst at the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), who recognised the conservation concern behind the viral clip. WTI alerted the state forest department, and a rescue team from Seijosa in Pakke Kessang district was dispatched to locate the cub.

The bear cub was transferred to the Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation (CBRC).

"Hoping its mother would return, the man waited, but when she never turned up, he brought the cub home. While his actions were driven by compassion, under the laws, it is illegal to keep a wild animal and doing so is a punishable offence as per the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972," a WTI official told *DH* on Wednesday.

The rescue team reached the location and the man handed over the bear cub. The cub, aged about two-three months, was later transferred to the Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation, about 200 km away at Pakke Tiger Reserve.

"This cub could be rescued due to one local resident's kindness, a neighbour's video, an alert online viewer, and a wildlife cyber analyst turn a viral moment into a real conservation response," WTI said in a note to *DH*.

Workers are seen at the construction site of an international cricket stadium with Lord Shiva-themed architecture, including a pellet drum-inspired media centre, on the outskirts of Varanasi on Thursday. AFP

arge of districts management

ar has put 13 of his ministers ersee disaster management.

- makuru and Chitradurga
- ngaluru Rural, Ballari and ayanagar
- ngaluru South and Mandya
- ayapura and Bagalkot
- vamogga, Chikkamagaluru and vangere
- ngaluru Urban and Hassan
- lar and Gadag
- lagavi, Dharwad and Haveri
- laburagi and Yadgir
- chur and Koppal
- upi, Kodagu, Dakshina Kannada d Uttara Kannada
- lar and Chikkaballapur
- Mysuru and Chamarajanagar

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Daughter & Family Members,
The Management Committee,
Staff & Students

Scant sleep & food, dogs as guards: UP bonded labourers recount ordeal

Workers claim one captive was killed and body disposed of in sack

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The 12 people allegedly held captive at a factory in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district and forced to work as bonded labourers said they were subjected to inhuman treatment for almost two years.

The labourers, who hailed from different states in the country and were rescued by the police, narrated their harrowing tales to the cops.

"We were given husk bread to eat and forced to work for 20 hours... Our mobile phones and Aadhaar cards were taken away," said one of the rescued labourers. "There were two pitbull dogs which acted as guards to make sure that no one got away."

He added that they were beaten by the goons of the owners of the facility whenever they tried to rest. "We were not given leaves even if we were unwell," he said. The labourers had visible injury marks on their bodies.

Hailing from Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, and other states, they were reportedly lured with offers of a good salary and perks. He said that the owners scouted for labourers at bus and railway stations.

"Everything changed the moment we entered the factory," another rescued labourer said. The factory was situated at the Mandi village in the Muzaffarnagar district.

The labourers told the cops that one among them was killed by the goons, and that his body was put in a sack and thrown away.

The matter came to light when one of the labourers — identified as Vikram, a resident of Rajasthan — managed to escape the factory and informed the police.

A special police team was formed, and it conducted a raid on the factory, leading to the rescue of the 12 labourers.

A special investigation team (SIT) has been constituted to probe the matter. Two persons, identified as Shiva Tyagi and Pradeep Baliyan, have been arrested, while the search is underway to nab the factory's manager, Ankit Baliyan.

All the rescued labourers have been medically examined and are being counselled.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has demanded stern action against the guilty in the matter.

TORTURE FACTORY

- Workers report being beaten, stabbed with spears, whipped, bitten by dogs and fed animal fodder
- Tell cops that a Nepalese worker Arjun died after being tortured inside the factory in November last year
- For months, workers' families were unaware of their whereabouts, with some even filing missing-person complaints
- Police have arrested supervisor Shiva Tyagi, while factory owner Ankit Balyan remains absconding

Twelve bonded labourers, including minors, bearing visible torture marks and injuries on their bodies were rescued from a paper plate manufacturing factory following a raid, in Muzaffarnagar. PTI

RAMU
Rescued labourer

"We were made to start work around 4 am and continue till midnight. We got only two or three hours to sleep. Even if someone was sick, there was no leave. We were told we would not leave the place alive.

SONU CHAUHAN
Rescued labourer

"If we felt sleepy, we were beaten with belts. We were given only three or four rotis in 24 hours. We never saw vegetables or dal. We ate rotis made from bran meant for cattle, with salt and red chilli.

Either Pradhan or Ladakh: Wangchuk warns of hunger strike

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Activist Sonam Wangchuk will go on a fast from Sunday if at least one of the demands — resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) and giving more power to Ladakh — is not met by then.

Sonam Wangchuk

Currently, on a visit to Switzerland's Geneva, Wangchuk shared a video from the protest square in front of the United Nations' office, saying that he had already told CJP protesters last week that once he returned from his visit, he would go on a fast if the demands for accountability on Pradhan and Ladakh were not met. "Greetings From Palais de Nations Geneva... This is the Jantar Mantar of Geneva, where all people can gather and demonstrate. Education and environment are my two causes, and I hope at least one of them would be resolved during this week," he said, posting his video on X.

In the video, he said he would wait till Saturday, and if the government accedes to at least one demand, he would not go on a fast.

CJP, whose protest entered the sixth day, also shared Wangchuk's video on its X handle and said, "Big announcement. Sonam Wangchuk to Start Hunger Strike on June 28 At Jantar Mantar. Sonam appealed to the government to show accountability by Saturday, June 27, or he will sit on a hunger strike. Inquilab Zindabad!!"

Last Saturday, Wangchuk said the government had to show accountability in the education sector and on Ladakh.

Emergency was attack on Constitution, says PM

Calls for safeguarding democratic values

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday described the Emergency imposed in 1975 as a "direct assault on the Constitution", and said the period was marked by suspension of civil liberties, curbs on freedom of expression and an attack on democratic institutions.

Marking 50 years since the proclamation of Emergency on June 25, 1975, Modi said the episode remains one of the darkest chapters in India's democratic history and serves as a reminder of the importance of safeguarding constitutional values.

"The Emergency was a direct assault on the Constitution. Fundamental rights were suspended, civil liberties were curtailed and freedom of expression was stifled," the Prime Minister said, asserting that institutions that form the bedrock of Indian democracy came under severe strain during the 21-month period.

Modi said thousands of political workers, social activists, journalists and ordinary citizens were jailed for opposing the government of the day. He added that censorship was imposed on the media and democratic processes were undermined.

Recalling the resistance mounted by people across the country, the Prime Minister said citizens from different walks of life united to defend democratic values and protect the Constitution. He said their struggle eventually led to the restoration of democracy and reaffirmed the resilience of India's democratic ethos.

The prime minister also urged people, especially the younger generation, to learn about the Emergency period and draw lessons from it. He said preserving constitutional principles, democratic institutions and individual freedoms remains a collective responsibility.

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

"The Emergency was a direct assault on our Constitution. It witnessed the suspension of civil liberties, curbs on freedom of expression, arrests of political leaders, journalists, social workers and an assault on institutions that are the bedrock of our democracy.

MVA rift in open as 23 lawmakers skip meet

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

As many as 23 legislators of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) skipped a crucial strategy meeting on Thursday, exposing fault-lines within the marquee seven-year-old grouping.

The meeting was called to plan the road ahead following a series of setbacks.

Of the 23 missing legislators, the names of 16 have been confirmed. Among them were Congress leaders Nana Patole, a former Speaker, and Vijay Wadettiwar, the Congress Legislature Party leader, and NCP (SP) leader and former minister Jayant Patil.

The list also comprises Congress MLAs Amit Deshmukh, Aslam Shaikh, Vishwajeet Kadam and Vikas Thakre; NCP (SP) MLAs Rohit Pawar, Sandip Kshirsagar and Abhijit Patil; and Shiv Sena (UBT) MLAs Sunil Raut, Gajanan Lavate, Babaji Kale, Rahul Patil and Sanjay Darekar.

Explaining his absence, Jayant Patil said, "The meeting was originally scheduled for June 23 but was abruptly moved to June 24. I had long-standing commitments... I had informed in advance."

Wadettiwar cited health issues for his absence, while Patole attributed it to personal reasons.

Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut's brother and MLA Sunil Raut said he was in his constituency after a 300-m protective wall collapsed following heavy rains.

Rejecting a rift in the opposition alliance, Congress' Thakre said, "We are all with MVA and are participating in protests against the government on the steps of the Vidhan Bhavan daily. There is no need for concern regarding our unity."

MAJOR MILESTONE

Air Marshal Awadhesh Kumar Bharti, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff, Director General of Electronics and Communication Systems BK Das, former Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, and others, pose during a ceremony marking the Final Operational Clearance of the indigenously developed NETRA Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system, in Bengaluru on Thursday. The system is equipped with a comprehensive suite – radar, electronic warfare systems, secure communication and self-protection. PTI

Uniform Civil Code Bill likely in Bengal Assembly on June 29

KOLKATA, PTI

The Suvendu Adhikari-led BJP government in West Bengal is all set to introduce the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill in the state on Monday (June 29) during its ongoing Budget session of the Assembly, much ahead of the party-stated six-month deadline, a source in the state cabinet said.

The matter was discussed and finalised in a Business Advisory Committee meeting held in the Assembly on Thursday evening, he added.

The development could mark one of the most consequential legal and social policy shifts in Bengal in recent times, with the BJP holding the UCC as representing both a major governance promise and a politically significant reform.

Ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections, the BJP had pledged in its manifesto that the UCC would be implemented within six months of coming to power in the state. The promise was prominently highlighted by Union Home Minister Amit Shah while unveiling the party's election manifesto in April.

"Several states, including Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, have already implemented the UCC proposals. Bengal will now also implement it in line with other BJP-ruled states as we had promised ahead of the elections," a minister in the Adhikari cabinet said.

Political observers maintained that the presentation of the Bill at the very first Assembly session, in less than two months of the BJP assuming power in the state, indicated the eagerness of the new administration to push through the party's electoral promise.

One of the most closely watched policy initiatives of the state's first BJP government, the UCC seeks to establish a common set of civil laws governing matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance and adoption for all citizens, irrespective of faith, replacing the existing religion-based personal laws, specifically enforcing a ban on polygamy and the triple talaq.

However, observers say, the proposal is likely to trigger intense political and legal debate in Bengal, with opposition parties, including the Trinamool Congress, previously expressing concerns over the UCC, arguing that personal laws are closely linked to religious freedoms and community identities.

SC ex-judge to head Ch'garh UCC panel

The BJP government in Chhattisgarh on Thursday constituted a five-member committee headed by a retired Supreme Court judge to prepare a draft for the UCC implementation in the state. Ex-SC Judge Ranjana Prakash Desai will head the panel, who helms a similar committee in Madhya Pradesh.

Bizman found dead in flat, deceased was of Krishi

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 45-year-old businessman and a close friend of Kannada actor Krishi Thapanda was found dead under mysterious circumstances in her flat in an apartment in Rajarajeshwari Nagar on Thursday.

The deceased has been identified as Vaishak K, a resident of Girinagar. He was running a car service centre near his house.

Police said the incident came to light on Thursday morning when he was alone in the flat, belonging to Krishi on the fourth floor. On Wednesday evening, he had called Krishi to inform that he had come to her flat. He sounded disturbed.

Awards for senior women journalists

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Women Journalists' Association has selected senior journalists B Uttarakumari and Tanuja Nayak for its annual awards for 2025–26.

For the award presented to women achievers outside the field of journalism, the Association has chosen Dr Bhuvaneshwari Kamble of Indi, who has been working for the rights and organisation of women migrant workers. According to a statement issued by Association president R Poornima, the awards will be presented at a function scheduled to be held in the second week of July.

Heavy vehicles banned on Agumbe Ghat till Sep 30

UDUPI, DHNS: Following heavy rainfall and the risk of landslides along Agumbe Ghat section of National Highway 169A, Udupi district administration has prohibited the movement of heavy vehicles on the stretch until September 30.

The ban has been imposed as a precautionary measure keeping public safety in mind, as continuous rains and the movement of heavy vehicles could trigger landslides at vulnerable locations along the ghat road.

According to the order issued by the deputy commissioner, only light motor vehicles will be allowed to use the Agumbe Ghat stretch of NH-169A during the period.

Heavy vehicles have been directed to use alternative routes.

BJP announces new state-level office-bearers ahead of UP polls

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Ahead of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, the BJP on Thursday announced a new 46-member team under state president Pankaj Chaudhary, appointing over 25 Other Backward Class (OBC) faces to it.

The move is widely being seen as a precursor to the rejig of the BJP-led Central government, as the new team under the saffron party's national president Nitin Nabin is yet to be named.

In the UP list, the BJP has named 19 state vice-presidents, eight state general secretaries, and 19 state secretaries in an attempt to maintain caste and regional balance and counter the Opposition's allegations.

All six existing regional presidents have been changed, and several women have been appointed office-bearers.

Prominent among the state vice-presidents are Union minister and BJP veteran Rajnath Singh's son Neeraj Singh, former Samajwadi Party MLA Pooja Pal, and former state ministers Suresh Rana, Satyapal Saini, Priyanka Rawat, Archana Mishra, Suresh Maurya, and Rajesh Yadav.

Among the state secretaries are journalist Yatendra Sharma and Ankur Sharma, an aide of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Among the general secretaries are the BJP's leading OBC face Geeta Shakya, besides Ram Pratap Singh Chauhan, Abhijit Mishra, Upendra Rawat, Sanjay Rai, Shankar Lodhi, Dilip Patel, and Rajesh Chaudhary.

Saroj Kushwaha has been appointed state president of the Mahila Morcha, Rohit Mishra the state president of the Yuva Morcha, and Dinesh Pratap the chief spokesperson of the UP BJP.

Additionally, Devendra Singh has been appointed state president of the BJP Kisan Morcha, Ashok Rawat the state president of the Scheduled Castes Morcha, and Prakash Pal the state president of the Backward Classes Morcha.

Among the new presidents of the state's regions are Nawab Singh Nagar (Western Uttar Pradesh), Puran Lal Lodhi (Braj), Ram Kishore Sahu (Kanpur), Avadhesh Dwivedi (Awadh), Ashok Chaurasia (Kashi), and Vinod Rai (Gorakhpur).

Kerala MPs write to PM, seek new FCRA rules withdrawal

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

KC Venugopal

John Brittas

Two Kerala MPs — Congress' KC Venugopal and CPM's John Brittas — on Thursday approached the Modi government seeking the withdrawal of new foreign funding rules for NGOs that were "designed not to regulate but to strangulate" civil society and "disturb the delicate balance" between regulatory oversight and institutional autonomy.

Venugopal wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while Brittas shot off a letter to Home Minister Amit Shah over the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules 2026 that restricted foreign funds for NGOs to 105 religious, cultural, economic, educational and social activities while barring anything related to religious conversion, among others.

Last nail in coffin

Both the MPs sought to link the new rules to the aborted attempt to pass the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, to "drastically tighten" control over NGOs in the Budget Session this year, with Venugopal saying that the notified rules would be the last nail in the coffin to convert independent NGOs into a "terrified, government-controlled echo chamber".

The Congress MP, who is also Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Chairman, argued that forcing NGOs to select their activities from a "rigid, government-mandated list" and "restricting" their operational geography to destroy the "very flexibility" that allows them to respond to on-ground realities.

He said the "extortionate" fines — up to 30% of the funds or a minimum of Rs one lakh — for minor administrative deviations or operating outside permitted geography are "highly vindictive", as such measures will "bankrupt" small NGOs. He also claimed that the demand for disclosing social media accounts, websites and publications betrays a "mindset of mass surveillance".

Insisting that nobody supports forced conversion, Brittas highlighted that the inclusion of the expression "excluding proselytisation" in the rules, as problematic as there is no definition for it in the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010 or in the amended rules, besides not acquiring a settled statutory meaning in Indian law.

It is "inherently susceptible to subjective and inconsistent administrative interpretation, conferring an unbridled discretion capable of arbitrary application and misuse," he said, adding, "such ambiguity inevitably produces a chilling effect on the legitimate exercise of constitutional freedoms".

Brittas said the instructions to provide details of social media accounts, websites and publications "travel well beyond the legitimate objective" of ensuring financial accountability and "extend regulatory scrutiny into the sphere of institutional communication, expression, thought and digital presence".

HIGH & DRY

Wait for Kerala's own brandy prolonged

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
DHNS

While Kerala witnesses high-voltage debates over allowing low-alcohol beverages, the state's own brandy — Minnal Magic — awaits the government's nod.

As the move to allow low-alcohol beverages faces stiff resistance within the ruling coalition, the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) government is unlikely to make a hasty decision on the commercial production of brandy, as it, too, could trigger criticism for promoting alcohol.

The previous CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government had kicked off trial production of the brandy at the Palakkad-based state public sector undertaking, Malabar Distilleries, in February.

The trial run was successful, with 90 cases produced. The price was fixed at Rs 400 for a half-litre bottle for the initial launch.

However, Malabar Distilleries is still awaiting a nod from the new UDF government to start the commercial production of Minnal Magic.

Excise Minister M Liju is likely to visit the unit soon and look into issues like staff deployment, amid allegations regarding the selection of temporary staff at the unit.

Congress sources said that since all procedures for starting the production had been completed, the state government might not revoke the plan as the project would also generate job opportunities for many, besides revenue.

Making available good-quality liquor at reasonable rates on the lines of the "Jawan" brand rum being brought out by a state government agency is the key objective of the brandy production.

Malabar Distilleries, which had been defunct since 2001, was revived for the project with an investment of around Rs 35 crore.

Every a is a blen cons

BENGALURU, DHNS

Every act of cruelty against an animal is not merely an injury to a sentient being, but a blemish upon the collective human conscience, the High Court of Karnataka has observed.

Justice M Nagaprasanna said this while quashing the order passed by a magistrate court directing the return of nine rescued dogs to its owner who himself is facing allegations of cruelty, repeated beatings, and sexual abuse to the canines.

The petition was filed by the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) challenging the April 25, 2026, order passed by the magistrate court, ruling in favour of the owner on his application seeking interim custody of nine dogs; six

US SC clears way for Trump admin to revive restrictive immigration policy

Controversial asylum-screening policy restriction removed

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

The Supreme Court cleared the way on Thursday for the Trump administration to potentially revive an immigration policy once used to turn back migrants seeking asylum at the US-Mexico border.

The justices overturned a lower court order blocking the practice, which limited the number of people who could apply for asylum each day under the Obama administration and during President Donald Trump's first term.

Advocates said the tactic created a humanitarian crisis as thousands of people settled in unsafe makeshift shelters while awaiting their turn. The Trump administration said it was necessary to deal with an increase in asylum seekers at the border. The policy is not currently in place, though authorities have imposed other restrictions on asylum seekers.

Trump's Supreme Court Scorecard

Recent Wins

- **Asylum Processing (2026):** Upheld limits on asylum processing at busy border crossings.
- **Nationwide Injunctions (2025):** Curbed judges' ability to block policies nationwide,
- **Green Card Re-entry (2026):** Allowed stricter treatment of some permanent residents accused of crimes.
- **Presidential Immunity (2024):** Granted broad immunity for presidents' official acts.
- **Roundup Case (2026):** Backed federal pre-emption over many state lawsuits.
- **Hawaii Gun Rights (2026):** Struck down parts of Hawaii's gun-carry restrictions.

Key Cases Pending

Birthright Citizenship
- Challenge to Trump's citizenship order.

Independent Agencies
- Presidential power to remove agency officials.

Immigration Enforcement
- Cases involving deportations and migrant protections.
citizenship order.

The administration argues that metering is a critical tool that has been used by presidents of both parties and should remain available. Federal attorneys say people turned away at the border could return later, though queues stretched into the thousands when the policy was previously in place.

The case is one of several immigration suits the court is considering this term, including Trump's push to restrict birthright citizenship and his administration's effort to strip temporary legal protections from migrants fleeing instability and armed conflict.

Under federal law, migrants who arrive in the US must be able to apply for asylum and be screened for fear of persecution in their home countries. The Justice Department argued that people stopped by authorities have not arrived in the US and therefore immigration agents are not required to let them apply. However, attorneys for asylum seekers said the law has long been interpreted to mean that anyone arriving at a port of entry should be screened, and that blocking arrivals disregards the nation's ideals.

Metering was first used during President Barack Obama's administration when large numbers of Haitians appeared at the main crossing between Tijuana, Mexico, and San Diego. It was later expanded to all border crossings from Mexico during Trump's first term in the White House.

The policy ended in 2020 when the government introduced stricter restrictions during the coronavirus pandemic, and President Joe Biden formally rescinded it in 2021. That same year, a California-based federal judge found that metering violated asylum seekers' rights and the law requiring screening.

Appeals panel rejects US Prez's effort to gather voting data

A federal appeals court Wednesday rejected an effort by the Department of Justice to force Michigan to turn over its voter rolls, including sensitive voter information—the most significant rebuke yet by courts of the federal government's effort to obtain private data.

The decision deals a major blow to the Justice Department's efforts to obtain such information from every state as it seeks to compile the largest set of national voter roll data ever collected. That effort is part of an administration-wide push by President Donald Trump to find evidence of voter fraud. So far, they have not found anything substantial, and critics say the effort is an attempt to sow distrust in elections.

World court judges sue Trump administration over sanctions

WASHINGTON, REUTERS: Three International Criminal Court judges sued US President Donald Trump and his administration over sanctions imposed on them last year, arguing that the measures were unlawful.

In the lawsuit filed in federal court in Manhattan, judges Kimberly Prost of Canada, Solomy Balungi Bossa of Uganda and Reine Adelaide Sophie Alapini-Gansou of Benin said the sanctions were designed to exert extrajudicial pressure with the objective of punishing and coercing the judges.

A White House official said Trump exercised his authority lawfully under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act in imposing the sanctions, which the official said addressed "an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the US involving the ICC."

WORLD AT A GLANCE

People stand near over water hoses spilling water to provide relief from the summer heat as part of climate adaptation measures in Cologne, Germany on Thursday. AFP

Indian linked to Singapore firms accused of abandoning workers

▸ The High Commission of India on Wednesday evening said it is in touch with workers of three Singapore companies that failed to pay them for months, as well as with the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) and the Ministry of Manpower (MOM), which are providing assistance to those affected, PTI reports from Singapore.

More than 400 workers from India and Bangladesh have been abandoned without wages and accommodation by three companies — SK Industries, KPA Engineering and VVR Plant Engineering. One director common to all three firms has been identified as an Indian national, Ramu Palani Velu, according to a report published by The Straits Times. According to the newspaper, checks on the corporate intelligence platform Sayari show that Ramu is a director of seven companies in Singapore. The firms are listed as providing air-conditioning, plumbing and building services.Ramu, a permanent resident of Singapore, is said to have left the country.

Relief for Bayer in Roundup case

▸ The Supreme Court sided with the maker of the Roundup weedkiller on Thursday in a ruling expected to block thousands of lawsuits alleging that it failed to warn people that the product could cause cancer, AP/PTI reports from Washington.

The case came before the justices after a tidal wave of litigation that included several multibillion-dollar verdicts against global agrochemical manufacturer Bayer, which acquired Roundup when it bought its original manufacturer, Monsanto, in 2018. The high court found that the company cannot be sued in state courts because federal regulators have found a link between Roundup and cancer to be unlikely. The case before the court was filed by Missouri resident John Durnell. He developed cancer after over 20 years of serving as his neighbourhood association's "spray guy".

Participants take part in the "Day of Struggle Against US Imperialism" in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Thursday. AFP

7 Indian schools shortlisted

▸ Seven Indian schools have been named in the top 10 shortlist for the World's Best School Prizes 2026 in London on Thursday, PTI reports from London.

PCMC Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj English Medium School (Pune) and Army Goodwill School Wuzur (Anantnag) have been shortlisted in the Innovation category. Healthy Planet TGA Early Years School (Noida); Inventure Academy (Bengaluru); and Seth M R Jaipuria School (Lucknow) have all been recognised for Community Collaboration. EuroSchool Bannerghatta (Bengaluru), is in the running for the World's Best School Prize for Environmental Action. A second school from Lucknow – Seth Anandram Jaipuria School has been named in the top 10 shortlist for the World's Best School Prize for Supporting Healthy Lives. The winners will be chosen by an expert Judging Academy and winners to be announced in November.

Russia questions US mediator role

▸ The Kremlin said on Thursday it valued US President Donald Trump's efforts to mediate in the war in Ukraine and believed the US understood that it could not play that role while supporting one of the opposing sides, Reuters reports from Moscow.

The Kyiv Independent reported that Ukraine, which has intensified strikes on Russian oil refineries, believes it has secured Trump's backing to act "more boldly" in a campaign aimed at forcing Russia into meaningful negotiations. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed the report, reiterating that Russia was "deeply grateful" for US mediation efforts. "But, of course, it is impossible to make such efforts while being involved in the war on one of the sides," he told reporters.

Firefighters work at the site of a Russian drone strike in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, on Thursday. REUTERS

Canada intel agency admits Khalistanis' role in Air India blast

OTAWWA, PTI/AGENCIES: The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) has, for the first time in over 40 years, acknowledged the involvement of Khalistani terrorists in the bombing of Air India Flight 182, as Prime Minister Mark Carney described the attack as the "deadliest terrorist attack in Canada's history".

Canadian investigators had concluded that the bombing was carried out by Sikh separatists in retaliation for Operation Blue Star.

Calling the Kanishka tragedy "a heinous act of terror", Ottawa's intelligence agency blamed Canada-based Khalistani terrorists for planting the explosive device. "On this National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism, CSIS remembers the 329 people on Air India Flight 182 who lost their lives due to a heinous act of terror. On June 23, 1985, a bomb planted by Canada-based Khalistani extremists destroyed the aircraft, killing everyone on board—most of them Canadians," the agency posted on Facebook.

The Montreal-New Delhi Air India Flight 182 'Kanishka' exploded 45 minutes before it was due to land at London's Heathrow Airport on June 23, 1985, killing all 329 people on board, most of them Canadians of Indian descent.

Venezuelans say no tools to save quake survivors

Residents spend the night in the streets as they search for relatives

LA GUAIRA (VENEZUELA), AFP

Desperate Venezuelans battled on Thursday to rescue loved ones trapped alive beneath the rubble of collapsed buildings after two major earthquakes rocked the country.

Buildings cracked and crumbled, and residents fled into the streets after the quakes, which the US Geological Survey measured at magnitudes 7.2 and 7.5. Offers of rescue support and aid flooded in from around the world as the death toll rose to 188 by late Thursday.

The state of La Guaira, north of Caracas, was hit particularly hard, and residents stumbled through debris calling out the names of loved ones or tried in vain to rescue the injured. "There's a spot where a young woman named Jennifer, from the 11th floor, answers me. However, we don't have any tools; we have no way to help," said Antonio Bermudez, whose building collapsed in La Guaira.

Elsewhere in the rubble, a father and his son were using a pickaxe and a crowbar to try to pry away massive slabs to reach two of his other sons, Bermudez said. "They're still alive... there's nothing more we can do. We're telling them not to strain their voices, to take short breaths, in the hope that at least the three of them who are there will be rescued."

People search for survivors while others comfort one another near collapsed buildings following an earthquake in Catia La Mar on Thursday. AFP/REUTERS

The coastal city was without electricity, and many residents spent the night in the streets or searching for relatives. The strongest quake to hit Venezuela in 126 years will require "massive collective efforts", the UN aid chief Tom Fletcher said.

Scores of rescuers were deploying from the US and European countries, according to officials. Other nations, including Mexico, Chile, Portugal, China, India, Brazil and Iran, offered help, including rescue teams. "We have a whole-of-government response. It'll be big," US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters.

UN pauses Hormuz evacuation initiative after attack on ship

LONDON, REUTERS

The United Nations' shipping agency on Thursday paused an evacuation effort to get hundreds of stranded ships and thousands of seafarers out through the Strait of Hormuz after a cargo vessel was attacked in the Gulf of Oman.

A cargo ship reported a suspected attack as it attempted to pass through the Strait of Hormuz close to the coast of Oman on Thursday, according to the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO). The ship reported being struck on its starboard side by a projectile 7.5 nautical miles southeast of Oman's port of Dahit, UKMTO said. British maritime security company Ambrey said initial assessments indicated the incident was an attack.

The vessel hit was the Singapore-flagged container ship Ever Lovely, according to British maritime risk management group Vanguard and three maritime security sources. Another maritime security source said the vessel was likely targeted by a drone, although it was not yet clear who carried out the strike.

The strike damaged the ship's bridge but caused no casualties or environmental impact, UKMTO said. The ship's owner, Taiwan-based Evergreen, could not immediately be reached for comment. "I have been informed of an attack today in the Gulf of Oman on a vessel which passed through the Strait of Hormuz. This vessel did not transit under IMO's evacuation framework," Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary-General of the UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO), said. "I have decided to temporarily pause its implementation in order to reconfirm that the necessary safety guarantees continue to be in place for the ships on our evacuation list and all those in the region."

The IMO launched the voluntary initiative on Tuesday to help ships and their crews leave the Gulf using two routes — one via Iranian waters and the other via Omani waters, with US oversight.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said that safe passage would only be possible through routes designated by Iran, adding that it would take action against vessels that failed to comply.

MARCO RUBIO
US Secretary of State

"If Iran threatens or blocks ships in the strait, then we're going to have a problem.

Bangladesh, China to boost cooperation on Teesta

BEIJING, PTI

Bangladesh and China on Thursday agreed to strengthen cooperation in the management of the Teesta and other rivers.

The agreement was reached when Chinese Water Resources Minister Li Guoying called on Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, who is currently in Beijing, the state-run Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) news agency reported.

Rahman, who chose Malaysia for his first visit abroad since assuming office earlier this year, arrived in the Chinese city of Dalian from Kuala Lumpur on June 22, where he attended a World Economic Forum event.

On Wednesday, he arrived in Beijing by high-speed train from Dalian and is expected to hold meetings with President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and other senior officials.

During his meeting with Li, Rahman highlighted Bangladesh's ongoing river excavation programme aimed at reducing flood risks, protecting the environment and ensuring the proper management of water resources, the report said.

In this connection, he sought China's support in improving Bangladesh's water resource management. Rahman also sought Chinese technical assistance for the Teesta management project, the report said.

In response, the Chinese minister assured full cooperation with the Bangladesh government's initiatives in water resource management, it said.

Referring to a Memorandum of Understanding signed between Dhaka and Beijing in 2005, as well as the visit of Chinese water experts to Bangladesh last year, Li said bilateral cooperation between the two countries in water resource management is practical and research-based.

Rahman also sought China's assistance in preventing riverbank erosion, improving irrigation systems and enhancing inland water navigation in Bangladesh, the report said.

The Chinese minister noted that Bangladesh could benefit from China's experience in water management and invited Bangladeshi water experts and officials concerned to receive training in China, it said.

INDIAN CONCERNS

- The Teesta project is a key issue involving Bangladesh, China and India. China has long shown interest in the river's restoration project, while India has also offered technical assistance, reflecting the river's importance in regional relations and broader water-sharing issues between the two countries.

Prosecutors to drop Weinstein's unresolved rape charge

NEW YORK, AP/PTI: New York prosecutors said on Thursday that they will drop a rape charge against Harvey Weinstein instead of trying the former movie mogul for a fourth time in the #MeToo-era case.

Weinstein still stands convicted of another sexual felony in New York and other offences in California, and he remains behind bars. However, the New York rape charge had remained unresolved after an overturned conviction followed by two hung juries.

The Oscar-winning producer denies all the accusations. The rape charge concerned an allegation that he raped hairstylist and actor Jessica Mann in a Manhattan hotel in 2013. Mann has testified that she also had a consensual, on-and-off relationship with Weinstein. However, she told jurors that she repeatedly tried to leave and said no to any sexual activity as he cornered her in the hotel room. She said he persisted, demanding that she undress and grabbing her arms until she was afraid to keep protesting.

Former Hollywood film producer Harvey Weinstein attends a court in New York City on Thursday. REUTERS

Weinstein was one of the movie industry's most powerful figures, producing acclaimed films such as "Shakespeare in Love", "Pulp Fiction" and "Chocolat". A series of sexual misconduct allegations against him became public in 2017, fuelling the #MeToo movement's push for accountability and eventually leading to criminal charges.

India resumes travel visas for Bangladeshis

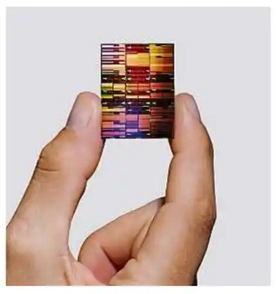
DHAKA, PTI: India's new High Commissioner to Dhaka, Dinesh Trivedi, on Thursday announced the resumption of travel visas for Bangladeshi nationals as he assumed office, a day after New Delhi conferred on him the status of a Union minister.

The 76-year-old Bharatiya Janata Party leader on Thursday presented his credentials to Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin, marking the start of his diplomatic assignment.

He was named as the envoy to Bangladesh on April 27, becoming the first politician to serve in the position.

"The new Indian High Commissioner has presented his credentials to the President, beginning his diplomatic assignment in Dhaka," a Bangabhaban presidential palace spokesman said.

Biz Bytes



IBM launches sub-1nm chip technology

BENGALURU, DHNS: IBM on Thursday unveiled the world's first sub-1 nanometer (nm) chip technology, featuring a transistor architecture at the 0.7 nm, or 7 angstrom node. This comes at a time when the semiconductor industry is facing the physical limits of traditional chip scaling.

Semiconductors play critical roles in everything from computing, to appliances, to communication devices, transportation systems and critical infrastructure. IBM's new sub-1 nm chip packs nearly 100 billion transistors onto a chip the size of a fingernail, nearly twice the density of IBM's 2 nm chip, unveiled in 2021, the company said in a release.

"We are not just making smaller transistors, we're reinventing how chips are built to deliver more power and energy efficiency," said Jay Gambetta, Director of IBM Research and IBM Fellow.

APDC, Airbound sign drone deal

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru-based aerospace company, Airbound has signed an MoU with Andhra Pradesh Drone Corporation (APDC) to develop a drone delivery network across the Amaravati Capital Region, with a target of enabling 10,000 daily drone flights over the next year.

The project will connect Amaravati, Vijayawada and Guntur through drone operations across healthcare, logistics and e-commerce, with delivery costs of 10 paise per km.

Amazon announces additional $13 bn investment in India

To expand, support AI, cloud infra in India by 2030

BENGALURU, DHNS

E-commerce giant Amazon on Thursday announced plans to invest an additional $13 billion in India to expand AI and cloud infrastructure in the country by 2030. This is in addition to its previous commitment of over $35 billion.

Amazon CEO Andy Jassy met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday in New Delhi and reiterated the company's long-term commitment to India and announced the additional investment.

The investment will expand AWS data centre capacity in Mumbai and Hyderabad, giving startups, enterprises and government organisations access to custom AI chips, managed AI services, secure and reliable cloud technologies and developer tools to innovate faster, scale rapidly, and serve customers globally, the company said.

Amazon's cumulative investments in India from 2010-2030 stand at over $88 billion. With the additional investment, the company's total planned investment in expanding and supporting AI and cloud infrastructure stands at over $21 billion between 2026 and 2030.

The company said it will continue investing in the operations network powering its e-commerce and quick commerce business. It plans to launch more than 20 new fulfilment centres and over 100 new last-mile delivery stations this year.

In a post on X, Jassy said that he really enjoyed his meeting with Prime Minister Modi and discussed what's ahead for Amazon in India. "We've been serving customers, sellers, developers, startups, and enterprises in India for more than a decade and just getting started," he said.

Amazon CEO Andy Jassy (left) calls on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

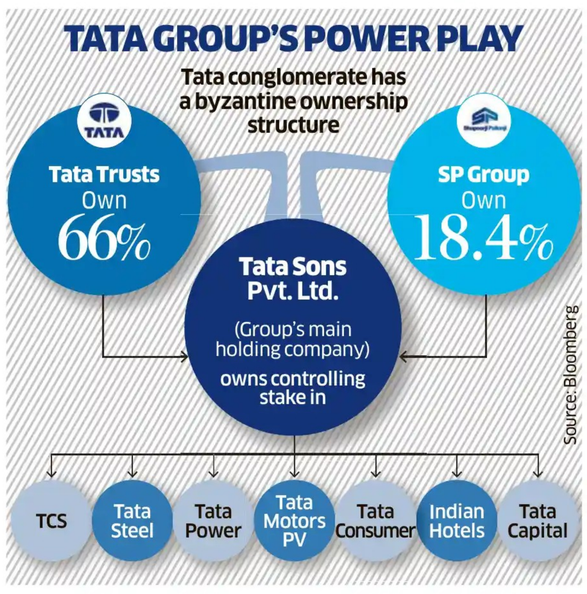
Modi said, "A great meeting with Mr Andy Jassy. I welcome Amazon's record $48 billion investment in India. This will create new opportunities for our youth. At the same time, it shows the growing interest across the world to invest in India!"

Jassy highlighted the growing importance of India, where Amazon operates several businesses, including e-commerce, AI, cloud, and entertainment, among others. He noted that the company's India business is on a strong growth trajectory, with strong customer demand, especially in its e-commerce and AWS business. Since its launch in India, Amazon has digitised 12 million small businesses, enabled over $20 billion in cumulative e-commerce exports, and supported 2.8 million jobs.

The company has pledged to support 3.8 million jobs, $80 billion in cumulative exports, enabling AI benefits for 15 million small businesses, and AI education for 4 million government school students.

Jassy said, "We came to India over a decade ago and have since been serving customers, sellers, developers, startups and enterprises through our different businesses. The response has been tremendous, with strong growth especially across our ecommerce, AI, and cloud businesses. As we grow Amazon in India, our business priorities continue to align with India's priorities of democratizing access to AI, digitising small businesses, creating jobs, and enabling exports."

The company said in a statement that hundreds of thousands of Indian enterprises, startups, and government agencies are already using AWS to build, train, and deploy AI workloads at production scale, including National Health Authority, Government e-Marketplace, Apollo Tyres, Delhivery, Physics Wallah, Axis Bank and HDFC Bank, among others.



Tata Sons listing pressure mounts as RBI rejects tweaks

Central bank reaffirms shadow lender norms

BLOOMBERG

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reaffirmed a framework for identifying systemically important shadow lenders, a decision that is likely to mount pressure on Tata Sons to list its shares.

The RBI on Wednesday rejected industry requests to raise the asset threshold or retain a more complex, risk-based scoring methodology for classifying large non-bank financial companies. Instead, the regulator opted for a simplified approach centred on balance-sheet size, where NBFCs with standalone assets of at least Rs 1 lakh crore ($10.5 billion) will be subject to bank-like regulatory scrutiny, including a requirement to eventually list.

Tata Sons, which falls within the RBI's so-called upper-layer category, has long-resisted a listing due to the additional compliance and disclosure burdens. The firm is the holding company of the $180-billion salt-to-semiconductors Tata Group, and an IPO has ramifications for the entire empire as well as its other billionaire shareholders.

While clarity is still awaited on whether the RBI will allow an exemption for Tata Sons, a listing would unlock value for investors, said Srinath Sridharan, an independent analyst who has been on the board of several NBFCs. "It needs to be seen how and when it happens with full clarity in place."

Tata Chem shares

Shares of Tata Chemicals, which holds a tiny stake in Tata Sons, rose as much as 5.9% in Mumbai trading, its most since April 28. Shares of Tata Investment Corp, in which Tata Sons holds a 68.5% stake, climbed as much as 3.9%, the most since June 18.

Tata Sons in 2024 had applied to the RBI to surrender its shadow lender registration after aggressively retiring debt and reducing its market-facing financial activities. While that application remains under review, the RBI's decision to define asset size as a "reasonably good proxy" for systemic risk would keep Tata Sons firmly within the upper-layer NBFC category.

The RBI, in a separate circular last month, said shadow lenders that are accepting money from associates and group entities will be counted as having indirect access to public funds cannot deregister as shadow lenders.

'UK trade deal is India's most-comprehensive pact'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, which is slated to come into effect from July 15, is the most-comprehensive trade pact New Delhi has entered into so far, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

Speaking at an event organised by India Global Forum in London, Goyal said, "We see the UK FTA as helping our industry to evolve and go up the ladder, compete and complement with businesses in the UK, and support each other's economies."

The minister claimed that the India-UK trade deal will create a more conducive environment for trade, investment, innovation and collaboration, enabling businesses on both sides to deepen partnerships and expand opportunities.

"An agreement with a small economy like New Zealand has its own value propositions, has its own dynamics, and an agreement with the US has a different story to tell," Goyal said.

"The UK FTA is going to be the most-comprehensive agreement that India has entered into so far, which will come into force in July," he added.

Goyal is on a three-day visit to the United Kingdom ahead of the entry into force of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Double Contribution Convention (DCC) deal on July 15.

No US deal until India gets competitive advantage: Goyal

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Trade deal between India and the US would not be signed until Washington offers competitive advantage to Indian exporters, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

Speaking at an event in London, Goyal said, "An FTA is basically about getting a comparative advantage over your competitors."

"We obviously must have some reason to be able to enter into force that agreement which we have already agreed upon," the minister said, referring to the framework for an interim trade deal announced by India and the US through a joint statement in February.

Piyush Goyal

Goyal said as part of the trade deal, the US should offer India some competitive advantage over what is being given to countries like Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and other neighbouring countries.

"Until the framework of getting that competitive advantage is finalised we cannot enter into force a US deal," he said.

"That's broadly the discussion on how the US should find the appropriate tools and legal backing to give us that competitive advantage over our competition. The day that happens the deal is on," he added.

The minister's comment came just a day after he held multiple rounds of discussions with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer to finalise the deal.

Under the framework for an interim deal released on February 7, the US offered to reduce reciprocal tariffs on Indian exports from 25% to 18%. But the US Supreme Court's February 20 ruling invalidated the reciprocal tariff regime.

Five startups cross $1-billion valuation mark in first half of 2026

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Five startups have crossed the $1 billion valuation mark in the first half of 2026. The two AI-native entrants, Neysa and Sarvam, entered the unicorn club in under three years, with pre-unicorn funding of $50 million and $41 million, respectively. The remaining three, KreditBee, Skyroot and Square Yards, took between eight and 12 years and required between $65 million and $205 million in prior funding, according to market intelligence platform Tracxn.

"This reflects a precise investor calculus, where a company is building on top of established global AI infrastructure and serving large regulated Indian enterprises with known buying patterns, capital moves fast and at high valuation multiples," Tracxn mentioned in its India Tech H1 2026 Geo Semi Annual Report.

In the first half (January to June 2026), startups raised about $7.2 billion, a 12% increase over H1 2025. But these companies raised funding across 652 rounds, a 43% decline in deal volume, compared to 1,149 in the same period last year.

Tracxn said the underlying pattern, fewer rounds at larger average size, has intensified every half-year since 2022 and reflects a settled investor discipline rather than a temporary reaction to macro uncertainty.

The top three funding rounds of H1 2026 were CRED at $900 million, Nxtra at $710 million and Neysa at $600 million. These funds together represent $2.2 billion, or 31% of all capital deployed in the half. Late-stage funding reached $3.8 billion in H1 2026, and 13 IPOs closed in H1 2026, up from 12, a year ago, with average market cap rising to $297 million from $162 million.

Meanwhile, the Hurun Research Institute has released the Global Unicorn Index 2026, a ranking of the world's unicorns. When it comes to unicorn share, the UK and India jointly rank third with 4% of unicorn share. The US, China and India have a higher percentage of Gazelles and Unicorns, which over the next five years ought to translate into a higher percentage of Hurun Global 1000s. The UK, with 70 unicorns, overtook India (61 unicorns) for third place.

OMCs to register profits in FY27 despite West Asia crisis: Crisil

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Correction in crude oil prices and the gradual easing of both shipping-related costs and gas supplies would materially ease the profitability pressure on India Inc for the rest of this fiscal versus what was envisaged earlier, Crisil said on Thursday.

Oil marketing companies (OMCs) and fertiliser manufacturers stand out for a sharp turnaround in their profitability. Despite incurring an estimated loss of Rs 40,000–45,000 crore between March and May due to surge in crude prices, OMCs are likely to report operating profits for this fiscal. "Even if excise duties were reverted to pre-conflict levels and retail fuel prices remain unchanged, OMCs are likely to report operating profits for this fiscal, offsetting earlier losses," Crisil said in a research note.

India's first private greenfield gold mine opens in Andhra's Kurnool

HYDERABAD, DHNS

India's first private integrated greenfield gold mining project has become operational at Jonnagiri in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.

The project, which was launched by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, brings commercial-scale domestic gold production back into focus at a time when gold prices are at historic highs. Until now, the country's only operational gold mine was located at Hutti (Raichur district) in Karnataka, which was established during the British era. The Hutti mine continues to be operated by a Karnataka government enterprise.

No new gold mining project had been commissioned since Independence, making Jonnagiri a watershed moment for the sector.

Rs 405-cr investment

The Jonnagiri project has been developed by Geo Mysore Services India Pvt Ltd and Deccan Gold Mines, backed by Lloyds Metals and Energy and the Thriveni Group, with a total investment exceeding Rs 405 crore.

Naidu inaugurated the mine, laid the foundation stone for its second expansion unit, and flagged off heavy vehicles transporting gold-bearing ore for processing. He also visited a training centre on site where local women and youth are being trained on simulator machines to operate heavy mining equipment.

The project is spread across around 598 hectares, covering the villages of Jonnagiri, Erragudi, and Pagidirayi in Tuggali mandal. Certified gold resources currently stand at around 13.1 tonnes, with exploration pointing to the potential for significantly larger reserves across the broader mineralised belt.

The mine has an estimated operational life of 15 years, with initial annual production of 400 kg, set to scale up to 900 kg in the next phase and eventually reach 2 tonnes per year.

According to Lloyds Metals and Energy Chairman and Managing Director B Prabhakaran, "For decades, India has been one of the world's largest consumers of gold, while remaining heavily dependent on imports. Today, we are demonstrating that India can discover, develop, and operate world-class gold mining assets at commercial scale."

The proposed Adani Airport City in Navi Mumbai.

Adani to invest Rs 20,000 crore in Airport Cities

MUMBAI, DHNS: The Adani Group has unveiled an ambitious Rs 20,000-crore programme to develop integrated 'Airport Cities' across its airport network, bringing together hospitality, retail, entertainment, convention and commercial infrastructure within seamlessly connected, walkable urban districts.

The development is inspired by globally-successful airport districts such as Singapore's Changi, Dubai International, Amsterdam's Schiphol and Seoul's Incheon, bringing an airport-led development model to India's rapidly-expanding aviation market.

Adani Airport City Limited (AACL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL), will lead the project.

"The development represents an investment of more than Rs 20,000 crore in the first phase. Approximately 22 million sq ft will be developed across Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Jaipur, and Guwahati," the AAHL said on Thursday.

"We are creating a network of integrated urban destinations where airports become catalysts for investment, employment, better passenger experiences and the long-term growth of the cities they serve," AAHL Director Jeet Adani said.

COSTLY CHIPS

Apple raises prices of MacBooks, iPads as memory costs skyrocket

SAN FRANCISCO, REUTERS

Apple raised iPad and MacBook prices on Thursday, saying it could no longer shield customers from soaring memory and storage chip costs driven by the AI industry's data centre buildout.

The move does not affect Apple's main cash cow, the iPhone. But it would take starting price of the Neo — its lowest-priced laptop aimed at winning marketshare from affordable Windows and Chromebook laptops — from $599 to $699 months after launch.

The increase shows even the world's most-valuable consumer electronics company with supply-chain relationships that are the envy of the industry is not immune to a memory price surge that has dulled the outlook for smartphone and PC sales.

Memory-makers such as Micron have in recent months prioritised orders from AI chipmakers like Nvidia, helping them earn record profit but leaving little supply for electronics makers that have been forced to increase prices.

"We have never seen a component price increase this much, this quickly," Apple said in a statement.

"We have shielded our customers from these increases so far, but we have now reached a point where we need to begin raising prices on a number of products, including today's increases for iPad and Mac."

Apple hiked the price of MacBook Air with 512 gigabytes of storage rose to $1,299 from $1,099, while the MacBook Pro with 1 terabyte of storage rose to $1,999 from $1,699, according to updated prices on its website. The iPad Air with 128 gigabytes of storage rose from $599 to $749, among other changes.

Shares of the company were down 0.7% in premarket trading after the news.

Apple said in April that existing inventories had helped it keep its gross margins above Wall Street expectations, but that rising memory costs would start to catch up by the end of this month, with profitability expected to fall slightly.

"We expect significantly higher memory costs," CEO Tim Cook said on a conference call with analysts in late April.

"Where we don't give color beyond June, I can tell you that beyond the June quarter, we believe memory costs will drive an increasing impact on our business," Cook had said.

Apple has not disclosed what steps besides price hike it has taken to address rising memory costs. The company said on Thursday, "We know this is not welcome news, and we are working tirelessly to find solutions."

Prices of dynamic RAM, used in virtually all modern tech gadgets, rose as much as 98% in the first quarter of 2026 and is set to jump by another 58% to 63% in the current quarter, according to industry tracker TrendForce.

That surge, dubbed by some experts as "RAMageddon", has been driven by a boom in AI data center construction, with companies like Nvidia signing long-term deals with memory makers who are racing to increase capacity.

The rising costs are expected to weigh heavily on device sales this year.

ATHLETICS INTER-STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sindhu vaults to glory

Unheralded K'taka athlete sets NR from borrowed pole

Sindhushree G with coach Vijeesh MM after breaking the women's pole vault national record in Bhubaneswar on Thursday. DH PHOTO

ADITYA K HALDER
BHUBANESWAR, DHNS

The crossbar shook violently as G Sindhushree clipped it on her maiden attempt at 4.25 metres. The Shivamogga pole vaulter landed with a thud on the mat and waited anxiously for a moment. The bar stayed put. In that instant, the 25-year-old rank outsider had not only shattered the national record but also stunned the crowd and pre-event favourite Baranica Elangovan of Tamil Nadu.

Unnathi Aiyappa. DH PHOTO

Realising what she had just achieved, Sindhushree dashed towards the coach's area and collapsed at the feet of her coach Vijeesh M M. For an athlete whose previous best had crossed the four-metre barrier only once before the National Inter-State Athletics Championships, it was the vault of a lifetime.

"It would never have been possible without my coach, who took me in when others had given up on me," an emotional Sindhushree told *DH*. "He deserves immense credit for making me believe I could achieve this. But when the crossbar stayed up after brushing against me, I felt my father was with me today."

Perhaps the script had been written elsewhere. Just a few hours before the competition, Sindhushree was unsure if she would even be able to compete. Ever since the death of her father Ganesh R three years ago, financial hardships have cast a shadow over her career, and finding a suitable vaulting pole had become a major challenge right before the Inter-States.

Her own pole, purchased at considerable expense of Rs 2 lakh a few years ago, had worn out and was no longer capable of supporting the heights she was targetting. With the Asian Games qualifying mark of 4.10m in sight, she found an unlikely lifeline in her friend Rahul, who stepped in at the last moment and lent her his pole; a gesture that ultimately helped power the record-breaking leap.

The reigning Karnataka state champion, whose mother works as a tailor, admittedly never impressed the authority enough with her performance to get a financial backing to fuel her ambitions. However, with the national record to her name, Sindhushree now believes the Karnataka government will come to her help with the Asian Games participation in the fray.

"The state government never helped me before because I honestly never thought I did enough to impress them. However, I have now qualified for Asian Games and I have showed that I am capable of doing much more, I hope the government will see the potential in me and come to my aid," said Sindhushree.

Unnathi, Rao qualify

While Sindhushree opened Karnataka's medal count with a gold, her state-mates Unnathi Aiyappa and Prakruthi R Rao added a silver and bronze respectively in the women's 200m final.

The sprint duo also breached the Asian Games qualification mark (23.70 seconds) while posting their personal bests as 200m state champion Unnathi clocked 23.40. The state's 100m champion Prakruthi ran a timing of 23.58 as the Karnataka duo were outpaced by Maharashtra's Harita Bhadra with country's season best of 23.14.

Results: Men: 200m: Animesh Kujur (Odi) 20.74s, 1; Dondapati Jayaram (Odi) 20.97, 2; Jishnu Prasad PK (Ker) 21.18, 3.
800m: Mohammed Afsal P (Ker) 1:48.57, 1; Krishan Kumar (Har) 1:48.82, 2; Prathamesh Deore (Mah) 1:48.89, 3.
Half Marathon Race Walk: Servin (TN) 1:31:49, 1; Sachin Bohra (Utt) 1:32:10, 2; Ningthoukhongja (Man) 1:32:24, 3.
Discus Throw: Kirpal Singh (Cha) 57.37m, 1; Nirbhay Singh (Har) 55.26, 2; Arjun (Del) 54.90, 3.
Decathlon: Thowfeeq N (Ker) 7276 pts, 1; Kushal Mohite (Mah) 7251 pts, 2; Jashbir Nayak (Odi) 7131 pts, 3.
Women: 200m: Harita Bhadra (Mah) 23.14, 1; Unnathi Bollanda (Kar) 23.40, 2; Prakruthi R Rao B (Kar) 23.58, 3. **800m:** Gowthami Jayaraman (TN) 2:04.17, 1; Pooja (Har) 2:04.37, 2; Lili Das (Utt) 2:04.59, 3.
Pole Vault: Sindhushree G (Kar) 4.25m (NR: Old: 4.23m, Baranica Elangovan, Bhubaneswar, 2026), 1; Baranica Elangovan (TN) 4.20m, 2; Nitika Akare (MP) 4.10m, 3.
Shot Put: Manpreet Kaur (Har) 17.75m, 1; Krishna Jayasankar (TN) 16.96m, 2; Srishti Vig (Del) 16.96m, 3.

Teen Anushka emerges Baghpat's hammer of hope

ADITYA K HALDER
BHUBANESWAR, DHNS

Baghpat is not a name synonymous with women safety. Some of the startling rape cases, including minors, in the country were often reported in the Uttar Pradesh district which is barely an hour away from the national capital.

A certain Anushka Yadav may have contributed towards changing that image. At least for a bit as the 18-year-old hammer thrower from Baleni village of the dreaded district left her mark on track and field by becoming the youngest Indian to breach the national record. Her 67.02 metre throw -- at the National Inter-State Athletics Championships here on Wednesday -- brought everyone's attention back to the event that looked stagnant for almost a decade.

Baleni, a village with modest resources but no shortage of ambition, has quietly grown into a cradle of Indian throwing talent. Its under-developed Sri Krishna Inter College Ground, devoid of even a synthetic track, has shaped some of the country's finest exponents in the discipline.

Rising javelin thrower Sachin Yadav, one of only four Indians to cross the coveted 85m mark, learnt his trade here. So did leading hammer throwers Tanya Chaudhary and K M Rachna, whose presence continues to inspire the next generation. Anushka is simply the latest jewel from the production line.

"I took up hammer throw on my father's (Sunil) insistence but when you train with seniors like Rachna and Tanya, the training quality and demand are higher," says Anushka, who also holds the U-20 national record.

However, the teenager has already surged ahead of many of her seniors. Coached by her father Sunil alongside local coaches Chirag Yadav and Gagan Yadav, Anushka has pushed Indian women's hammer throw into uncharted territory. Before Wednesday, the 65m barrier had only rarely been breached in recent years.

Anushka Yadav prays to almighty after breaching the national record in the women's hammer throw in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

Anushka's best effort of 67 is an unprecedented mark for Indian hammer throw and qualifies her for the Asian Games as well. However, any expectations of a medal must die down for the moment at least. India's best doesn't feature among the top 10 performance in Asia this season while China's Zhao Jhie leads the pack at 78.22. The world leading, for that matter, is at 81.13m by reigning Olympic champion Camryn Rogers.

However, her father Sunil is not deterred by such tall ask as the former national-level hammer thrower believes Anushka is set to achieve big things.

"We haven't seen her best yet," Sunil tells *DH*. "Such has been her form that she was throwing 70-plus back in Bagphat that too in the sweltering summer. For someone who is just 18, she is capable of achieving much more if the right support is provided to her, we are hopeful that it will reach us soon."

MNK Rao Park BC, Mysore District A win titles

LOCAL BASKETBALL

BENGALURU, DHNS: Hosts MNK Rao Park Basketball Club and Mysore District A won the boys and girls' titles respectively in the State Youth (U-16) Championship at the MNK Rao Park BC Courts here on Thursday.

In the boys' final, MNK Rao Park BC swatted aside Southern Blues 50-18 with Ujwal (15) and Dev Naidu (14) top-scoring for the victors who led 30-11 at half-time.

Mysore girls too had it easy against Beagles BC, winning the summit clash 45-29 after running a 27-14 lead at half-time.

Results (both finals): Boys: MNK Rao Park BC: 50 (Ujwal 15, Dev Naidu 14) bt Southern Blues: 18 (Trinabh 13) HT: 32-11.
Third-place: AVBC: 75 (Ayaan Ali 18, Aryan 17) bt Vimanapura SC: 33 (Aditya 18) HT: 35-20.
Girls: Mysore District A: 45 (Aanchal 16) bt Beagles BC: 29 (Saanvi 9) HT: 27-14.
Third-place: Vivek's SC: 44 (Manasvi 16, Linisha 11) bt Bangalore Vanguards: 36 (Charvya 15) HT: 22-14.
Placings: Boys: MNK Rao Park BC, 1; Southern Blues, 2; AV BC, 3; Vimanapura BC, 4.
Girls: Mysore District A, 1; Beagles BC, 2; Viveks SC, 3; B'lore Vanguards, 4.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the 6th General Meeting (AGM) of the Association is scheduled to be held on Sunday, 19th July, 2026 at 10 AM in BHIVE Premium, Church Street, Bengaluru along with elections. Agenda and Calendar of events can be viewed in the website : www.uvcega.org
Sd/-Secretary
Date: 23-06-2026 Place: Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client intends to purchase the Schedule Property from Smt. K. SAROJAMMA who is an Absolute owner through a Gift executed by her son M.R. NARASIMHA MURTHY which was registered vide Doc No.MLS-1-02796-2025-26 dated 20.12.2025 at the Office of Registrar, Malleshwaram Bangalore.
Any person/s banks, financial institutions, claiming an interest in the property or against the Owner, are hereby required to register their claims/ objections in writing with documentary evidence to the undersigned within 15 days from this day, failing which the said sale will be completed very next day. Any objections / claims received thereafter will not be entertained/ binding on our client.
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I, ILYAS BASHA, residing No. 9/1, 1st, Floor, South Cross Street, Near Omar Farooq Masjid, Neelasandra, Vivekanagar Post, Bengaluru-560047, have changed my name to ILIYAS BASHA vide affidavit dated 25-06-2026 before notary V Earappa, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called ILIYAS BASHA only
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mangala Mahalakshmi, Mangala Mahalakshmi Gurumallesh, resident at No.9/85, Subramanyapura Main Road, Kadirenahalli, BSK 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560070, declare that the above names pertain to me only & henceforth I shall be known as MANGALA MAHALAKSHMI vide affidavit dated 24-06-2026 before notary S.N. Madhu, Bengaluru.
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Jawahar Devairakkam, R/ at #122/1, Site No. 7 and 8, 8th Street, Bank Avenue, Horamavu Post, Bengaluru - 560043, have changed my minor son's name from SAMUEL to SAMUEL JAWAHAR, vide affidavit dated 26.05.2026 before notary C.V. Erappa, Bengaluru. Henceforth he shall be called as SAMUEL JAWAHAR only

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TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

Spain starlet Lamine Yamal will be eyeing another strong show against smarting Uruguay on Friday. REUTERS

Ragged Uruguay seek first win against Spain

GUADALAJARA (MEXICO), REUTERS

Uruguay arrive at Friday's Group H meeting with Spain in urgent need of a first World Cup win after two draws turned a promising start into a precarious path to the knockout rounds.

La Celeste, world champions in 1930 and 1950, have two points from two matches after drawing 1-1 with Saudi Arabia and 2-2 with Cape Verde, results that left Marcelo Bielsa's side two points behind group leaders Spain.

Uruguay have created enough chances to suggest they should be in a stronger position, but defensive errors and missed opportunities have left them needing a sharp response in Guadalajara.

Against Cape Verde, Uruguay recovered from Kevin Pina's long-range free kick to lead through goals from Maxi Araujo and Agustin Canobbio before halftime, only for substitute Helio Varela to equalise around the hour mark after a defensive mix-up.

Bielsa accepted responsibility for the defensive lapses, but the urgency is shared across a squad whose final group game comes against a Spain team who arrive in Guadalajara in a very different mood. After opening with a flat 0-0 draw against Cape Verde, Luis de la Fuente's European champions responded with a 4-0 win over Saudi Arabia in Atlanta, powered by the return of Lamine Yamal to the starting lineup.

The 18-year-old, managing his way back from a hamstring injury, scored Spain's opener after 10 minutes and was withdrawn at halftime with the match effectively decided.

Mikel Oyarzabal, criticised after a quiet display against Cape Verde, also answered emphatically with two goals and an assist in the first half. De la Fuente said it was "crazy" to question a Spain team unbeaten in 33 consecutive matches, and the Saudi victory restored the sharpness missing in the opener.

Spain lead Group H with four points, two ahead of Uruguay and Cape Verde. For De la Fuente's side, Friday offers a chance to underline their credentials. For Uruguay, it is close to a must-win game.

All to play for 'darlings' Cape Verde

HOUSTON, REUTERS

Saudi Arabia and Cape Verde will seek a win to earn a place in the World Cup round of 32 when they clash on Friday, with the latter hoping to continue their run as one of the stories of the tournament and many fans' second favourite team.

Fancied Spain head Group H with four points from two games, while their final opponents Uruguay have two. Cape Verde also have two points and Saudi Arabia one, meaning any of the four teams can still qualify for the next stage.

The African side are making their debut at the World Cup but have earned praise for a battling goalless draw with Spain and a more evenly-contested 2-2 result against Uruguay, where they showcased their never-say-die spirit.

The Saudis lost 4-0 to Spain in their last game but will fancy their chances and hope the Cape Verdeans run out of steam in humid Houston.

Such has been the popularity of the latter at their Florida training base that they were joined on Wednesday by Tampa Bay Rowdies head coach Dominic Casciato for training and an exchange of jerseys.

There will certainly be many willing them to continue their journey into the next round.

"Since the beginning, what we've been saying is that we would like to compete at the highest possible level, and that's what we're trying to do," coach Bubista said.

"That's what we've been doing in these two matches, and more important than the result is to be able to show our identity as a team, our strength, our unity, and also our resilience.

"We're here to compete to try to achieve a new dream, which is to qualify for the second round and I think it's legitimate to think that way."

Saudi Arabia have their own ambitions and their coach Georgios Donis, who took over in April, will hope for a much improved performance on their heavy defeat by Spain, which had followed a hard-earned draw with Uruguay.

Cape Verde will be banking big on their dynamic fullback Sidny Lopes Cabral when they take on Saudi Arabia on Friday. AFP

Samba Boys make errant Scots dance to their music

Vinicius Jr nets a brace in 3-0 victory for Brazil

MIAMI, AFP

Vinicius Junior made it four goals in three games at the World Cup as Brazil cruised to a 3-0 victory over Scotland on Wednesday, sealing progress to the last 32 as Group C winners and leaving their opponents in danger of another first-round exit.

Real Madrid superstar Vinicius took advantage of a defensive howler to give Brazil an early lead in Miami and headed in another in first-half stoppage time.

Scotland were never really in it and Matheus Cunha got a third on the hour mark for the record five-time World Cup winners, who brought on Neymar towards the end for his first international appearance in over two-and-a-half years.

There are doubts as to whether Carlo Ancelotti's side are genuine contenders to win this tournament but boosted by finishing top of the group they head to Texas for a last-32 tie in Houston on June 29.

That will be against the runners-up in Group F, which will be either the Netherlands, Japan or Sweden.

After scoring in both the opening 1-1 draw with Morocco and the 3-0 win over Haiti, Vinicius is the first Brazilian to find the net in every group game at a World Cup since Ronaldo and Rivaldo both did it in 2002.

Brazil	Scotland
3	0

With four goals, he is one behind Lionel Messi and level with Erling Haaland and Kylian Mbappe in the golden boot race.

Scotland, meanwhile, are at real risk of yet another group-stage elimination, as has been their fate at every previous major tournament in which they have participated -- that includes eight World Cups before this year.

Morocco took second in Group C, with seven points but behind Brazil on goal difference, after coming from behind twice to beat Haiti 4-2 in Atlanta.

Scotland come third with three points and a goal difference of minus three. They must wait to see if that is enough to finish as one of the eight best third-placed sides who advance to the last 32.

Steve Clarke's team could not recover from conceding inside two minutes in their last outing against Morocco in Boston, and they only had themselves to blame as they once again fell behind early.

It was a very soft goal to concede and a nightmare for Scott McKenna, who had been brought into the defence in place of Grant Hanley.

McKenna was too casual in possession in his own box in the seventh minute and was closed down by Rayan.

Starting in place of the injured Raphinha, the young Bournemouth forward gave it to Vinicius and he rounded Angus Gunn to score.

Scotland were very lucky not to concede again in similar circumstances midway through the first half as Jack Hendry was closed down by Vinicius who went on to slot in.

This time, however, the goal was overturned following a VAR check by the Mexican referee, who could see that Vinicius had clipped the leg of Hendry on his way through.

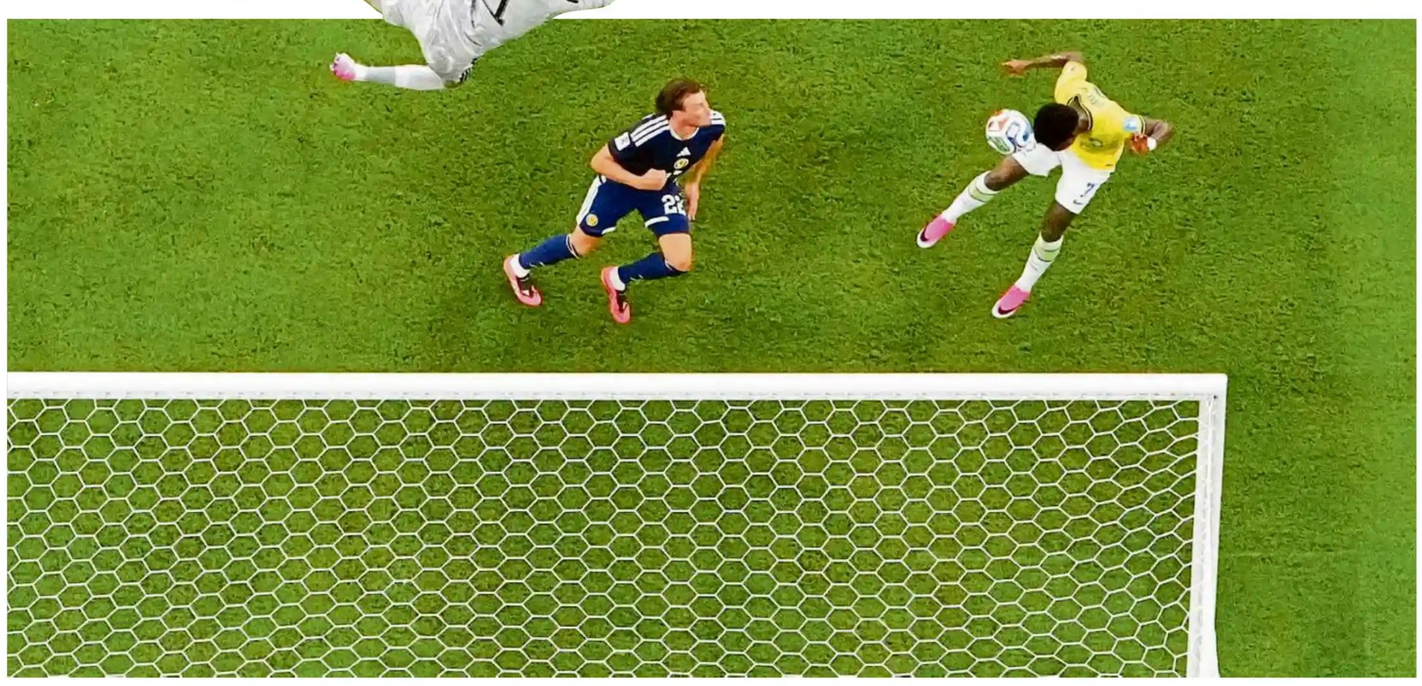
But it was only a matter of time before Brazil scored again, and Vinicius headed in with the game in stoppage time at the end of the first half.

Once more Scotland were punished for slack play at the back with an Andy Robertson pass being intercepted inside his own area before Bruno Guimaraes crossed for the goal.

Scotland looked at risk of completely collapsing as Gunn had to save from Rayan just before the half-time whistle, and the goalkeeper then denied Vinicius his hat-trick soon after the restart.

Instead it was Manchester United's Cunha who got the third -- his third of the tournament -- from a Guimaraes lay-off, and Brazil could have won by more.

A consolation goal for Scotland might have been significant in their quest to reach the next round, but Alisson twice denied Scott McTominay.



Brazil's Vinicius Junior (right) heads to complete his brace against Scotland during their Group C game in Miami on Wednesday. REUTERS

Vinicius silences critics with another stirring show

MIAMI, AP: Brazil star Vinicius Junior knew what his critics were saying coming into this World Cup, that he just can't score on football's biggest stage the way he can at Real Madrid.

He clearly didn't listen.

Vinicius has four goals now in this tournament - only Lionel Messi, with five, has more - and the flashy Brazilian got two on Wednesday night in his team's 3-0 win over Scotland.

"Faith that I was going to improve, for the talent that I have ... I was sure that at the right moment I would shine again with the Brazilian team shirt," Vinicius said.

He wasn't wrong and is tied for second with France's Kylian Mbappe and Norway's Erling Haaland in the Golden Boot race, right behind Messi.

"Nothing is better than going back to the World Cup, to the place where I always dreamed of being," Vinicius said. "To be able to represent my family, to be able to represent a country as important as Brazil, I believe that there is nothing better."

He also became the fifth member of an exclusive club of Brazilians to score in all three group stage games, and the first to do so since Ronaldo and Rivaldo both did so in 2002.

"There were always times when I couldn't show my football," Vinicius said. "It brings a certain relief."

Brazil coach Carlo Ancelotti coached Vinicius at Real Madrid from 2021 to 2025. While guiding Vinicius to global stardom along the way, Ancelotti - who Vinicius calls the best coach in the world - won two Champions Leagues, two La Liga titles and one Copa del Rey in that span.

And while wearing Brazil colours for Ancelotti, Vinicius has been completely reinvigorated. In 39 games for Brazil under previous coaches, Vinicius netted just six goals. In just 13 under Ancelotti, he has scored seven.

"I had no question in my mind of how far or well he'd come to this World Cup," Ancelotti said. "It makes him happy to play for the national team. He's doing a brilliant job."

After his goal against Haiti in Brazil's second World Cup game, Vinicius joked that he needs to listen to Ancelotti more.

"For sure when we get to the dressing room, he'll say he knows a lot about football," he said.

But so does Vinicius . And he promises to get even better.

"I will also evolve and improve in the competition," he said.

Vinicius Junior became the fifth Brazilian and first since Ronaldo and Rivaldo in 2002 to score in all three group games. REUTERS

Australia, Paraguay plot path to knockout phase

SANTA CLARA, REUTERS

Australia head into their final World Cup group match against Paraguay with their fate in their hands, needing only a draw to reach the knockout phase, while the South Americans face a more daunting scenario if victory proves elusive.

With the United States having already sealed top spot in Group D and Turkey eliminated, Australia and Paraguay will battle for second place to earn a potentially easier opponent in the round of 32.

A winning team at San Francisco Bay Area Stadium on Thursday will play the second-placed team in Group G, which remains wide open before leading Egypt face second-placed Iran and third-placed Belgium meet New Zealand.

The loser would be condemned to relying on other results to advance as one of the eight highest-ranked third-place finishers.

A draw provides an intriguing scenario for both teams, though, as Paraguay would be highly likely to advance with Australia on four points each, leaving the chance that pragmatism outweighs a full-blooded push for victory.

With scores locked in the second half, Australia, particularly, may be tempted to minimise risk and maintain the status quo.

Not that Socceroos defender Jason Geria was having any of it.

"I think you're cheating the game in a way if you're looking to just call a truce with 10 minutes to go, that doesn't seem right in my opinion," he said.

"Yeah, we could both progress with a point, that's evident, but I don't think it's in us to just concede or just take the foot off the gas."

Australia will look to rebound from a 2-0 defeat by the U.S. in Seattle, a huge letdown for the country following their 2-0 upset of Turkey in the opener.

Tony Popovic's starting 11 will be closely watched after the Australia coach was berated by former Socceroos players and pundits for having Nestory Irankunda and Connor Metcalfe, the goalscorers against Turkey, start on the bench against the US.

Australia's Mohamed Toure (second from left) and Tete Yengi oblige fans requests prior to their training session in Alameda, California. AFP

Nagelsmann feels Germany 'punished' for topping group

EAST RUTHERFORD (US), AFP: Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann said on Wednesday he believes his side are at a disadvantage as World Cup group winners due to reduced preparation time for their last-32 tie.

The four-time world champions are assured of top spot going into their final Group E game against Ecuador on Thursday but will only learn their opponents for the next round less than 48 hours before the match.

"I think we are being punished as the group leader," Nagelsmann told reporters in New Jersey.

On Friday

Group D

Turkiye vs **USA** (7.30 am)

Paraguay vs **Australia** (7.30 am)

On Saturday

Group I

Norway vs **France** (12.30 am)

Senegal vs **Iraq** (12.30 am)

Group H

Cape Verde vs **Saudi Arabia** (5.30 am)

Uruguay vs **Spain** (5.30 am)

Live on Zee5 & Unite8.
All timings in IST

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

South Africa, Canada and Bosnia-Herzegovina completed a hat-trick by progressing to the round of 32 for the first time in the history of the World Cup.

Historic trio breaches the barrier

Bosnia and Herzegovina's Kerim Alajbegovic celebrates after scoring their first goal against Qatar in Seattle. REUTERS

Bosnia eliminate Qatar to reach knockouts for first time

SEATTLE, AFP

Bosnia-Herzegovina reached the knockout stages of the World Cup for the first time after beating 2022 hosts Qatar 3-1 in their final Group B match on Wednesday.

Bosnia finished on four points and hours after their game had completed, FIFA announced they will be one of the best eight third-placed teams to progress to the last 32.

Bosnia-Herzegovina	Qatar
3	1

Qatar meanwhile exit at the group stage, just as they did four years ago, but return home with the meagre consolation of having garnered a point this time as opposed to 2022 when they finished with none.

Goals from Bosnia's youngest ever World Cup player, 18-year-old Kerim Alajbegovic, and an own goal by Qatar goalkeeper Mahmoud Abunada looked to have put the European side in the box seat.

However, Qatar made a game of it when 35-year-old Hassan al-Haydos, their most capped player, pulled one back late in the first-half.

Ermin Mahmic then put the game beyond the Qataris when he scored for the second successive match in the 80th minute.

Bosnia flew out of the blocks as soon as the whistle went, testing Abunada twice inside the first four minutes.

First Abunada denied Ermedin Demirovic's fierce drive and then he tipped away Ivan Sunjic's shot.

Bosnia's dominance finally paid off but it was not to be 40-year-old talisman Edin Dzeko who broke the deadlock but the sublimely-talented teenage left wing.

Abunada was unable to do anything about Alajbegovic's screamer from outside the area, after he had beaten two players.

The youngster was mobbed by his team-mates and once they had trotted back to the halfway line he stood and milked the moment, putting a finger to his lips.

Dzeko, winning his 150th cap, came more and more into the game and not wishing to have his thunder stolen by the new kid on the block he played an integral role in their second five minutes later.

South Africa stun South Korea to create history

MONTERREY (MEXICO), AFP

South Africa beat South Korea 1-0 on Wednesday to reach the World Cup knockout rounds for the first time in their history -- an astonishing turnaround after a dismal opening defeat.

South Africa	South Korea
1	0

The Bafana Bafana, playing in a World Cup for the first time since they hosted it in 2010, were widely written off after their 2-0 loss to Group A winners Mexico in the tournament's curtainraiser.

But they battled to a draw against the Czech Republic and came out on top of what was effectively a shootout with South Korea for second place in Monterrey, thanks to Thapelo Maseko's second-half strike.

South Africa coach Hugo Broos said it was difficult to put his side's achievement into words.

"We scored that goal, and it was 20 minutes of heartbeating and hoping that the game should be finished as soon as possible," said the Belgian.

"So yes, we are in the second round. It's historic. But I'm very happy for the guys. I've worked with them for five years. And what we did in those five years is amazing."

South Korea coach Hong Myung-bo made a shock call by leaving captain Son Heung-min -- considered by many to be Asia's greatest-ever player -- out of the starting line-up.

The Asian team started strongly, with stand-in captain Kim Min-jae's powerful header blocked on the goalline by Aubrey Modiba before Lee Kang-in flashed wide.

South Africa quickly settled, playing with hunger and adventure, but their finishing was wasteful.

They seemed certain to take the lead in the 30th minute when the ball fell to Evidence Makgopa after South Korean goalkeeper Kim Seung-gyu parried Thalente Mbatha's shot.

But Makgopa could only tamely poke the ball straight at the goalkeeper from close range.

Son came on at the start of the second half, one of three changes made by coach Hong as he sought to change the script.

Early in the second period Maseko squandered another good position while South Korea forward Oh Hyeon-gyu tested goalkeeper Ronwen Williams at the other end.

As news filtered through from Mexico City that the host nation were leading against the Czech Republic, there was an added sense of urgency.

South Africa seized their moment with Tshepang Moremi crossing to Maseko, who this time kept his cool, firing home inside the near post in the 63rd minute.

South Korea pushed hard in the closing stages but ran out of time, meaning South Africa will face co-hosts Canada in Los Angeles on June 28.

South Africa's Thapelo Maseko breaks into a jig after scoring their winning goal against South Korea. REUTERS

Switzerland's Ruben Vargas (right) celebrates with Johan Manzambi after scoring against Canada during their Group B clash in Vancouver. REUTERS

Swiss take top spot but Canada too join them in next stage

VANCOUVER, AFP

Ruben Vargas and Johan Manzambi fired Switzerland to top spot in World Cup Group B on Wednesday with a 2-1 win over Canada as the co-hosts also ensured a historic spot in the knockout rounds.

With the top two teams in the pool meeting in Vancouver, both knew that a victory would ensure first place in the group and, in theory, a kinder draw in the knockout stages.

Switzerland	Canada
2	1

Vargas and Manzambi's second-half strikes were enough to ensure the Swiss finished on seven points, while Promise David pulled a goal back in the final 15 minutes for Canada but they finished up three points behind their opponent but reach the last 32 for the first time in their history.

"I know our team has heart. We have a group that will give everything at every moment," Canada coach Jesse Marsch said.

Prior to the 2026 edition, the North Americans had never won a match at a finals but with their second-placed finish in the pool they will play the runner-up from Group A on Sunday in Los Angeles.

Switzerland will return to Vancouver to meet one of the best third-placed sides next week.

"We just wanted to continue the energy that's taken place here in Canada. That's the disappointment -- building on one big win is so important," Marsch added.

"I'm so thankful for the energy and the country. But we're going to go to LA and we still want to electrify our country. We're exactly where we wanted to be -- in the knockout phase."

Prior to kick-off, Canada midfielder Ismael Kone entered the pitch in a wheelchair after suffering a leg break in Canada's 6-0 demolition of Qatar last week and was treated to a standing ovation by the spectators at BC Place Vancouver.

Breel Embolo was presented with a golden chance to open the scoring for the Swiss after 10 minutes but could only fire straight at the goalkeeper before Manzambi struck the rebound into the chest of a defender.

FIFA WORLD CUP

Vozinha doesn't rule out Brazil move

Vozinha, one of the sensations of the World Cup, is looking for a new club, reports AP from Brasilia.

And the 40-year-old Cape Verde goalkeeper has not ruled out playing in Brazil, where fans helped him reach immediate stardom on social media.

Vozinha said in an interview with Brazilian journalist and influencer Daniel Braune that his contract with second-division Portuguese club Chaves has ended and he wants to keep playing and is keen on finding a new team following his success in the tournament.

Rules keep Merlin the duck out of Mexico game

One of the biggest folk heroes of this World Cup, Merlín the duck arrived outside Mexico City's stadium on Wednesday to great fanfare -- but was ultimately told he could not remain for Mexico's match against the Czech Republic, reports AFP from Mexico City.

After winning hearts across social media, supporters had launched an effort urging organisers to allow the beloved bird to attend the match alongside his family. In less than two weeks, Merlín went from waddling through the streets of Mexico City during Mexico's opening victory to visiting the presidential palace. But on Wednesday, his proverbial flight was cut short.

Merlín was granted access to the Azteca Stadium grounds to film a segment with Televisa, one of Latin America's largest television networks.

Messi celebrates 39th b'day with Argentina team-mates

Lionel Messi celebrated his 39th birthday on Wednesday during a World Cup that, at least for now, has brought him nothing but joy: Defending champion Argentina has already qualified for the knockout stage, and its captain has become the tournament's career scoring leader, reports AP from Mexico City.

Messi marked the occasion alongside his team-mates at Argentina's training base in Kansas City, Missouri. This is his sixth World Cup and the fifth time he has had a birthday during the tournament. The exception was the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, which was played in November and December.

Women's World Cup countdown has begun

While most of the soccer world is focused on the men at the World Cup, the countdown has begun for the 2027 Women's World Cup in Brazil, reports AP from Washington.

The women's tournament is set to start June 24, 2027, hosted by a South American country for the first time. Brazil hosted the men's World Cup in 1950 and 2014.

WC trophy's gold value more than doubles

The FIFA World Cup trophy has surged over two-fold in value since the last tournament in 2022, with its gold content now worth approximately USD 713,000, according to data from financial markets provider LSEG, reports PTI from Nee Delhi.

The trophy, crafted from 6.175 kg of 18-carat gold containing 4.93 kg of pure gold, has climbed in value alongside a broader rally in the precious metal due to multiple reasons.

The trophy was valued at around USD 277,000 when Brazil lifted it in Qatar in 2022, and at roughly USD 25,000 when the current design was introduced ahead of the 1974 tournament.

Morocco rock & roll as Haiti go home despite goals

ATLANTA, AFP

Morocco twice overcame the shock of conceding to Haiti to win a World Cup thriller 4-2 in Atlanta on Wednesday, but missed out on top spot in Group C to Brazil.

Haiti bowed out with their first World Cup goals for 52 years as a Yassine Bounou own goal and Wilson Isidor's stunning strike twice gave them the lead.

Morocco	Haiti
4	2

Achraf Hakimi and Ismael Saibari, with his third goal in as many games at the World Cup, levelled before half-time.

Soufiane Rahimi was nearly brought to tears when the 30-year-old's deflected effort found the top corner to give Morocco the lead before Gessime Yassine rounded off the scoring.

But by finishing second to Brazil on goal difference, Morocco will head to Monterrey for a likely meeting against the Netherlands or Japan in the last 32 on Monday.

Despite bowing out without a point, Haiti's performances at a first World Cup since 1974 have done a nation gripped by poverty proud.

Les Grenadiers were already eliminated after losing to Scotland and Brazil, but the thousands of Haitian expats in the stands at Atlanta were undeterred as every attack was met with deafening cheers.

Haiti's long wait for a goal on the global stage was ended after just 10 minutes when Jean-Kevin Duverne got to the by-line and Lenny Joseph flicked his cross into the net via a deflection off Bounou.

Hakimi has continued to captain Morocco despite learning mid-tournament that he is to face a trial on rape charges in France.

Morocco's Ismael Saibari (right) celebrates with team-mates after scoring their second goal against Haiti. REUTERS

France, Norway stare at top-spot dilemma

Norway's Erling Haaland (left) and France's Kylian Mbappe. AFP

NEW YORK, REUTERS: France can secure a more comfortable route through the World Cup when they face Norway in their final Group I match on Friday, though finishing top could leave them facing one of the toughest roads to the trophy.

Assured of a place in the round of 32 after victories over Senegal and Iraq, France need only a draw to finish first thanks to their superior goal difference. While the sporting benefits of topping the group are debatable, doing so would allow the 2018 champions to remain in Northeastern United States until the quarterfinals rather than embark on a cross-country journey through Dallas, Miami and Atlanta.

France are nevertheless expected to make changes. Didier Deschamps, who returned home following the death of his mother, used all five substitutions during Monday's 3-0 win over Iraq, a sign that squad management may take precedence with qualification already secured. Long-time assistant coach Guy Stephan will oversee the team from the touchline in Boston.

IN BRIEF

Pranav, Ajeet get TOPS funding

▸ The Sports Ministry's Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) has approved lengthy overseas training stints for Paralympic silver-winning duo of javelin thrower Ajeet Singh and club thrower Pranav Soorma at a total cost of Rs 35.46 lakh to enhance their preparations for this year's Asian Para-Games in Japan, reports PTI from New Delhi.

The 32-year-old Ajeet has left for international training at Offenburg in Germany till September 16, while Pranav has flown out for a training stint in Czechia till August 15.

Durand Cup from July 25

▸ The upcoming edition of the Durand Cup, Asia's oldest football tournament spanning 138 years, will begin from July 25 with the final scheduled for August 23, the organisers said on Thursday, reports PTI from New Delhi.

The tournament will feature 24 teams, including two foreign sides, with matches held across five cities -- Kolkata, Ranchi, Guwahati, Imphal and Shillong, with Ranchi making its debut as a host city in the competition's history.

ITF is now World Tennis

▸ The International Tennis Federation is changing its name to World Tennis, reports AP from London.

The organisation oversees the Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup team competitions, as well as tennis at the Olympics and Paralympics.

Other international sport federations have made similar name changes in recent years, such as World Athletics, World Aquatics, World Gymnastics and World Rugby.

Gajendra Nagar FC post big win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Jayanth S netted a brace during Gajendra Nagar FC's 6-0 blanking of Team Plan C in the KSFA D Division League CHampionships at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Thursday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

While Anbarasu R (8th), Harish B (35th) and Sharath Kumar S (50th) scored one goal apiece, the winners were further aided by an own goal by Team Plan C's Altamash Abrar in the 50+1st minute.

Results: KSFA D Division: Gajendra Nagar FC: 6 (Jayanth S 2nd, 45th, Anbarasu R 8th, Harish B 35th, Sharath Kumar S 50th, Altamash Abrar 50+1st OG) bt Team Plan C: 0; Power Play FC: 3 (Sunit Sharma 4th, 46th, Raju Jayamma 35th) bt Revolt FC: 0; KGF FC: 3 (Yuvan 4th, 24th, Karthi 10th) bt VPS FC: 0; FCA Bengaluru: 1 (Lokesh 12th) bt Spodemy FC: 0; Willow Sportz FC: 1 (Pradeep R 10th) drew with Mysore United FC: 1 (Madhan M 18th); Bangalore Panthers FC: 3 (Pranav S 9th, Prem Mohan M 15th, Gowtham BK 41st) bt Rama Murthy Nagar FC: 0; Zenit Intl FA: 1 (Chunggoulen Khawbung 25th) bt Mercurial FC: 0.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

1st T20I: Ireland vs India (**6 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

Women's WC: Sri Lanka vs Scotland (**11 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

3rd Test: England vs New Zealand (**day 2, 3:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

1st Test: West Indies vs Sri Lanka (**day 2, 7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

Maharaja T20 Trophy: Shivamogga Yodhas vs Kalyani Bengaluru Blasters (**2:30 pm**), Mysore Warriors vs Gulbarga Mystics (**7 pm**). **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

HOCKEY

FIH Pro League: India vs Pakistan (**10:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

MOTORSPORT

Formula 1: Austrian GP (**practice 1, 5 pm**). **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

BCCI Ombudsman disqualifies KSCA secretary Menon

KSCA prez Prasad terms the view unfortunate, to seek legal advice

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a big setback to the Venkatesh Prasad-led KSCA regime, the BCCI Ombudsman Justice Arun Mishra (retd) has ruled that KSCA secretary Santosh Menon can't continue in his post as he has completed the "maximum permissible" nine years.

While upholding a complaint filed by Dolphin Cricketers, an institutional member of the state association, Justice Mishra ruled that Menon had completed his tenure on December 16, 2025 and "the office of the secretary is declared to be vacant."

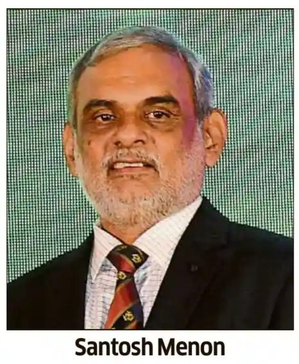
The issue was whether, for determining the cumulative nine-year tenure limit prescribed as a disqualification for membership of the KSCA Managing Committee, the period served as an office bearer should be counted together with the period served as a member of the Managing Committee, or treated separately and excluded from the computation.

The complainant had alleged that Menon served as a member of the KSCA MC from December 1, 2013 to December 3, 2019 (2,132 days) and thereafter as Secretary from December 3, 2019 to November 20, 2022 (1,144 days), aggregating to 3,276 days. Having been re-elected as secretary on December 7, 2025, he had only 9 days remaining to complete the permissible 9-year tenure (3,285 days). Accordingly, he ought to have demitted office on December 16, 2025.

Dismissing KSCA's contention that the BCCI Ombudsman didn't have the jurisdiction to decide the dispute, justice Mishra held that the clarification made by the KSCA Ombudsman is not an order under Rule 41 of the KSCA Rules (pertaining to the duration of office bearers) and "does not create an embargo upon deciding the instant dispute."

He further asked the BCCI and the KSCA to take appropriate steps to implement the order forthwith.

The complainant had made BCCI, KSCA and Menon as respondents in that order.



Santosh Menon

While none represented the BCCI during the hearing, the apex body has agreed to abide by BCCI Ombudsman's order.

"The BCCI in its reply has taken the stand that it is a matter of interpretation of provisions. It would abide by the decision of the Ombudsman in the matter and implement it," the order noted.

The Ombudsman stated that even the rules under the provision of cooling off, "the Respondent No. 3 (Menon) has completed a cumulative term of 9 years as a member of the Managing Committee and as an office-bearer; he is disqualified u/s 6B(3)(g).

"The provisions of 6A and 6(B)(2)(e) do not come for rescue in case a person is holding different posts then, the period for all the posts has to be cumulated under Rule 6(B)(2)(g) of KSCA Rules.

"He is illegally usurping the post of Secretary and cannot now hold any post in KSCA on completion of 9 years."

KSCA president Venkatesh Prasad said they were in the process of seeking legal advice before taking any decision. "At this stage, it would not be appropriate to offer any further comments until the legal implications of the order have been comprehensively examined.

"This is particularly so since the order dated 05 February 2026 passed by the Hon'ble Ombudsman of the KSCA, Justice (Retd.) A S Bopanna, which is binding on all members under the KSCA Bye-laws, but unfortunately the BCCI Ombdusman has taken a contrary view on the issue. The legal effect and interplay of the two orders are presently under examination," he offered.

The Prasad-led panel came into power on December 7, 2025, and Menon had defeated E S Jairam by a 675-632 margin to the secretary's post.

CRICKET T20 WORLD CUP

Shafali's firepower carries India through

Opener smashes half-century in 5-wicket defeat of Bangladesh

MANCHESTER, PTI

Shafali Verma bludgeoned the Bangladesh attack with a 34-ball 53 to set up a five-wicket win for India in the Women's T20 World Cup here on Thursday, notwithstanding another poor fielding effort from her team.

India's abysmal fielding in tournament thus far hit a new low as Bangladesh managed to post 136 for eight at Old Trafford.

India, who lost to South Africa largely due to their poor fielding, dropped as many as four catches in the powerplay.

The target was very gettable and Shafali provided a flying start to ensure that India got home in 16.5 overs. There was bit of lull in the middle overs before Jemimah Rodrigues (26 off 15 balls) took India close to the finishing line.

Having lost to South Africa, India will need to beat Australia on June 28 in their bid to make the semifinals.

Smriti Mandhana fell cheaply but Shafali single-handedly fired India to 63 for one in the powerplay. She punished the spinners and pacers with equal disdain, unleashing the inside out shot on multiple occasions.

She brought her second World Cup fifty off 29 balls in the eighth over, taking India on the cusp of a big win.

The explosive opener was stumped in a rather unusual fashion as she went for a non existent single after under edging a ball from Nahida Akter in the ninth over, not realising the wicketkeeper had collected the ball and dislodged the stumps.

Shafali Verma scored a 34-ball 53 during India's successful chase against Bangladesh in Manchester on Thursday. X

Earlier, all the four dropped catches were rather straightforward but the fielders made a mess of them. Among the guilty were Nandni Sharma, Yastika Bhatia and Radha Yadav, who had grassed two chances in the loss to South Africa in the previous game.

The biggest beneficiary of India's indiscretion was Juairiya Ferdous, who was dropped thrice by the fifth over. Ferdous did hit some fine boundaries but failed to make the most of the luck that came her way.

After being warned twice for running on the pitch, Nandni, who had dropped Ferdous and Sobhana Mostary off successive balls, took a sharp return catch to get rid of Ferdous. The opener scored 33 off 31 balls.

India have been found wanting in all departments in the tournament thus far. The management has been guilty of making too many changes in the pace department, leaving out the likes of Kranti Gaud.

On Thursday, Renuka Thakur got her first game of the competition and she struck in her very first over. Opener Dilara Akter (4) went for the pull but could not clear Shree Charani at deep square leg.

Charani bowled a brilliant 20th over, picking up two wickets and giving away only three runs.

Unlike her fielding, Radha (3/28) had a better outing with the ball as she removed opposition captain Nigar Sultana (32 off 27 balls) and Mostary (22 off 26 balls) in quick succession.

SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH	
Dilara c Charani b Renuka	4
Juairiya c & b Nandani	33
Sobhana c Deepti b Radha	22
Nigar st Ghosh b Radha	32
Sharmin (rtd out)	10
Shorna c Renuka b Charani	13
Ritu b Radha	8
Rabeya (not out)	2
Nahida c Rodrigues b Charani	0
Marufa (not out)	2
Extras (NB-3, W-7)	10
TOTAL (for 8 wkts, 20 overs)	**136**

Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-59, 3-79, 4-106, 5-120, 6-128, 7-134, 8-134.

Bowling: Shafali 2-0-11-0, Renuka Singh 3-0-21-1, Charani 4-0-21-2, Nandani 3-0-32-1, Deepti 4-0-23-0, Radha 4-0-28-3.

INDIA	
Mandhana c Rabeya b Marufa	8
Shafali st Nigar b Nahida	53
Yastika c Rabeya b Ritu	23
Ghosh lbw b Rabeya	10
Rodrigues c Marufa b Ritu	26
Harmanpreet (not out)	13
Deepti (not out)	5
Extras (W-1)	1
TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 16.5 overs)	**139**

Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-76, 3-94, 4-98, 5-128.

Bowling: Marufa 3-0-28-1, Sanjida 3-0-39-0, Ritu 4-0-29-2, Rabeya 3-0-19-1, Nahida 3.5-0-24-1.

PoM: Shafali Verma.

India's next match: Vs Australia, June 28 at Lord's.

All eyes on Sooryavanshi

Will India hand teen sensation debut against Ireland?

BELFAST, PTI

Accommodating teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi in the starting eleven will be the toughest riddle for the team management when India step into a new T20 era under Shreyas Iyer in the first of a two-match series against Ireland here on Friday.

There is heightened interest surrounding Sooryavanshi's possible international debut after the 15-year-old's stunning run in the IPL and a marauding 29-ball 94 for India A against Sri Lanka A in a tri-series one-day match at Dambulla.

But acceding to the popular demand will not be easy for the think tank.

Currently, India's top three are: Sanju Samson, Abhishek Sharma and Ishan Kishan. And their overall and recent T20 records are not easy to ignore. Samson, Abhishek and Kishan made fifties in the ICC T20 World Cup final win over New Zealand in March, which was also India's last assignment in the shortest format.

If the management wants to include Sooryavanshi, an opener, then one of Samson or Abhishek will have to go down or sit out, and that is a harsh step in the aftermath of a World Cup title win.

The bigwigs can push Samson down to the middle-order, as he has batted at No. 4 and No. 5 in the past.

But those slots will now be taken by skipper Iyer and his deputy Tilak Varma, leaving No. 6 the only open space.

However, it traditionally belongs to an all-rounder and India have multiple choices in Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Axar Patel and newcomer Suryansh Shedge.

Placing Samson at No. 6 will force India to enter the field with just five bowlers, and that department already wears a thin look in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Varun Chakravarthy.

Teams (from): India: Shreyas Iyer (captain), Tilak Varma (vice-captain), Ravi Bishnoi, Abhishek Sharma, Suryansh Shedge, Prasidh Krishna, Sanju Samson, Axar Patel, Harshit Rana, Ishan Kishan, Washington Sundar, Arshdeep Singh, Shivam Dube, Prince Yadav, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.

Ireland: Lorcan Tucker (captain), Ross Adair, Ben Calitz, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Stephen Doheny, Matthew Humphreys, Gavin Hoey, Matthew Hollard, Liam McCarthy, Jai Moondra, Harry Tector, Tim Tector, Reuben Wilson.

LIVE 6 PM SONY SPORTS

Should they give red-hot teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi a debut or stick with the tested is the question the Indian team management is staring at as they take on Ireland in the opening T20I on Friday. PTI

Coastal Kings Mangaluru's Shreyas Gopal cuts one during his unbeaten 84 against Mysore Warriors.

Shreyas, Nair shine for Coastal Kings

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karun Nair and Shreyas Gopal complemented each other to steer Coastal Kings Mangaluru to a six-wicket victory over Mysore Warriors in the DACSS Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament in Mysuru on Thursday.

The Coastal Kings were back in action less than 24 hours after losing to Bangalore Blasters by 20 runs on Wednesday. But they made light work of the fatigue factor with Nair and Gopal successfully chasing a 192-run target with a decisive 60-ball 123-run partnership for the fourth wicket.

The veteran duo turned the tables after the Coastal Kings were reduced to 42-3 by the fifth over. Nair, the top pick at Rs 18 lakhs in this year's auction, made a 32-ball 61 before he got out going for another big hit.

In the other game, Gulbarga Mystics returned to winning ways with a commanding seven-wicket victory over Hubli Tigers and climb to third place in the standings.

In a low-scoring contest, Hubli Tigers struggled for momentum throughout their innings, losing wickets at regular intervals before finishing on 119 for nine in 20 overs. Later, Thippa Reddy (34 n.o.) and Macneil Noronha (42 n.o.) steadied the innings with an unbeaten partnership to guide their side home in just 13.2 overs.

Brief scores: Mysore Warriors: 191/9 in 20 overs (LR Chethan 67, Yuvraj Arora 37; V Koushik 3-43, Shreyas Gopal 2-25) lt to Coastal Kings Mangaluru: 195-4 in 17.overs (Karun Nair 61, Shreyas Gopal 84 n.o.; Arbind Kumar Rai 2-31) by 6 wkts.

Hubli Tigers: 119/9 in 20 overs (Shikhar Shetty 27 n.o.; Kranthi Kumar 3-17) lt to Gulbarga Mystics: 120/3 in 13.2 overs (Thippa Reddy 34 n.o., Macneil Noronha 42 n.o.; Shikhar Shetty 2-26) by 7 wkts.

Latham, Conway break 96-year record

NOTTINGHAM, AFP: New Zealand's Tom Latham and Devon Conway broke a record that had stood for nearly a hundred years before England skipper Ben Stokes marked his return to international duty by sparking a late fightback on the first day of the third Test at Trent Bridge.

The Black Caps were still well-placed on 361-4 at stumps on Thursday's opening day, with this three-match series all square at 1-1.

But they had been 317-0 while New Zealand captain Latham, capitalising on winning a good toss in sweltering heat, made 151 and fellow left-handed opener Conway 157 before they were both dismissed in the final session to spark a mini-collapse.

The two 34-year-olds' partnership was the highest for any New Zealand wicket in a Test against England, surpassing the 276 shared by Stewie Dempster and Jackie Mills at Wellington back in 1930.

Latham and Conway were on the verge of breaking the record for the highest opening stand against England -- 338 by South Africa's Graeme Smith and Herschelle Gibbs at Edgbaston in 2003 -- when, after a couple of dropped chances, they were finally separated.

Not for the first time it was the inspirational Stokes who broke through.

Brief scores: New Zealand: 361/4 in 84.1 overs (Tom Latham 151, Devon Conway 157, Henry Nicholls 36) vs England.

Tanvi, Srikanth make strong starts at US Open

FULLERTON (US), PTI: World Junior Championship silver-medallist Tanvi Sharma and the seasoned Kidambi Srikanth began their US Open badminton campaign with comfortable wins here.

Tanvi defeated Yvonne Li of Germany 23-21, 21-16 while Devika Sihag, who is the reigning Thailand Masters champion, beat Ines Lucia Castillo of Peru 21-14, 21-14 in the women's singles first round on Wednesday.

In the first of the two all-Indian men's clashes, the promising Rounak Chouhan defeated former world junior silver-medallist S Sankar Muthusamy 23-21, 21-16.

Fifth seed Kidambi Srikanth dominated the match against compatriot D Saneeth, winning 21-14, 21-12 in just 30 minutes.

Rakshitha Sree also entered the next round with a 21-15, 21-8 victory over Tereza Svabikova of Czech Republic.

India found success in mixed doubles through Dhruv Rawat and K Maneesha, who packed off Indonesia's Wirawan Ihsan Adam and Serena Kani 21-15, 21-16 in just 26 minutes.

Tanvi Sharma

England first to enter semis

LONDON, AFP: Danni Wyatt-Hodge's fine innings at the top of the order laid the foundation for England's 38-run win over the West Indies at Lord's on Wednesday as the tournament hosts moved into the semi-finals of the Women's T20 World Cup.

Wyatt-Hodge's 65 was the cornerstone of England's 186-7 also featuring a useful 43 from former captain Heather Knight. West Indies never truly threatened a target of 187 and finished on 148-5 in their 20 overs, with Chinelle Henry's unbeaten 51 ensuring they batted out their full allocation.

Brief scores: England: 186/7 in 20 overs (Danni Wyatt-Hodge 65, Alice Capsey 28, Heather Knight 43; Ashmini Munshir 2-42) bt West Indies: 148/5 in 20 overs (Chinelle Henry 51; Charlier Dean 2-31) by 38 runs. **PoM**: Danni Wyatt-Hodge.

Sai ton props up India A

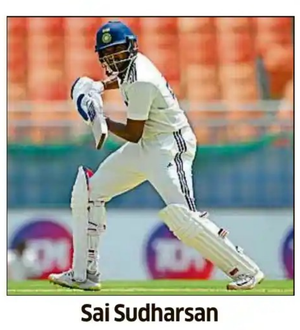
GALLE, PTI

A fluent century from Sai Sudharsan and unbeaten fifties from skipper Dhruv Jurel and Shaik Rasheed put India A firmly in control at 333 for four on the opening day of the first four-day game against Sri Lanka A here on Thursday.

Electing to bat, India A piled up a big score at stumps, with Sudharsan laying the foundation with a classy 132 before skipper Jurel (68 not out) and Rasheed (53 not out) carried the momentum forward with a strong unbeaten partnership in the third and final session of play.

Opening the innings, Sudharsan looked in complete command from the outset, displaying his range of strokes and sound temperament to tackle the Sri Lankan attack.

The left-hander mixed caution with aggression, capitalising on loose deliveries while remaining patient on a surface offering some assistance to the bowlers. His century set the tone for India A's innings after the visitors lost Aayush Pandey following an 82-run opening partnership, and the Tamil Nadu batter's effort ensured Sri Lanka A were kept on the back foot for large parts of the day.



Sai Sudharsan

Sudharsan's innings stood out for the ease with which he handled the conditions, as he patiently built his knock before accelerating once settled at the crease. His runs came off 175 balls, with 19 boundaries to boot.

The left-hander's performance also underlined his growing maturity in red-ball cricket, as he combined solid defence with attacking stroke-play to put the pressure back on the hosts.

His dismissal brought no respite for Sri Lanka A, with Jurel and Rasheed ensuring the scoring rate remained healthy. India scored at 3.87 runs per over, and 86 overs of play was possible on the day.

Brief scores: India A: 333/4 in 86 overs (Sai Sudharsan 132, Aayush Pandey 25, Dhruv Jurel 68 n.o., Shaik Rahseed 53 n.o.; Dilum Sudeera 2-98) vs Sri Lanka A.

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